

China

T O U R I S M

BEIJING TURNS THREE THOUSAND

A Trip to Dali

A Hazardous Adventure
into China's "Bermuda"

A Lamaist Festival
on Wutai Mountain



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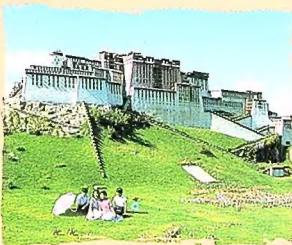
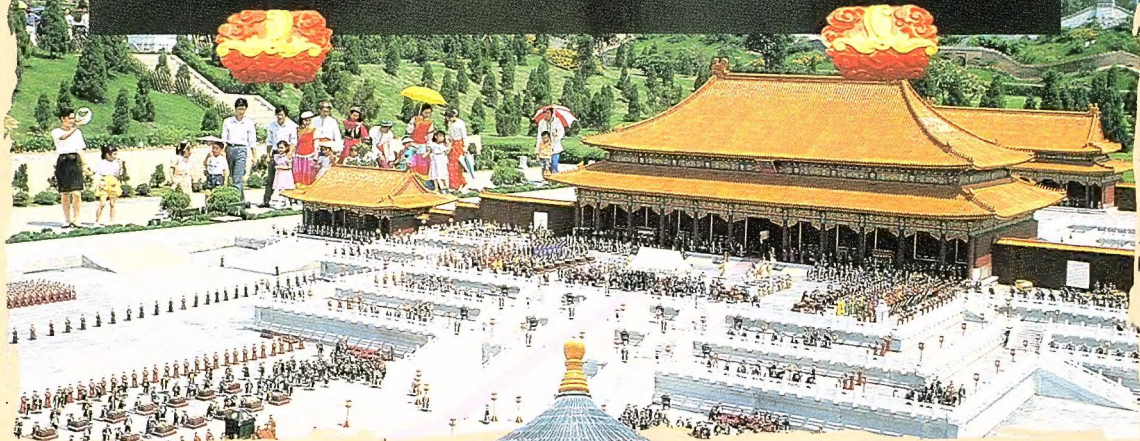
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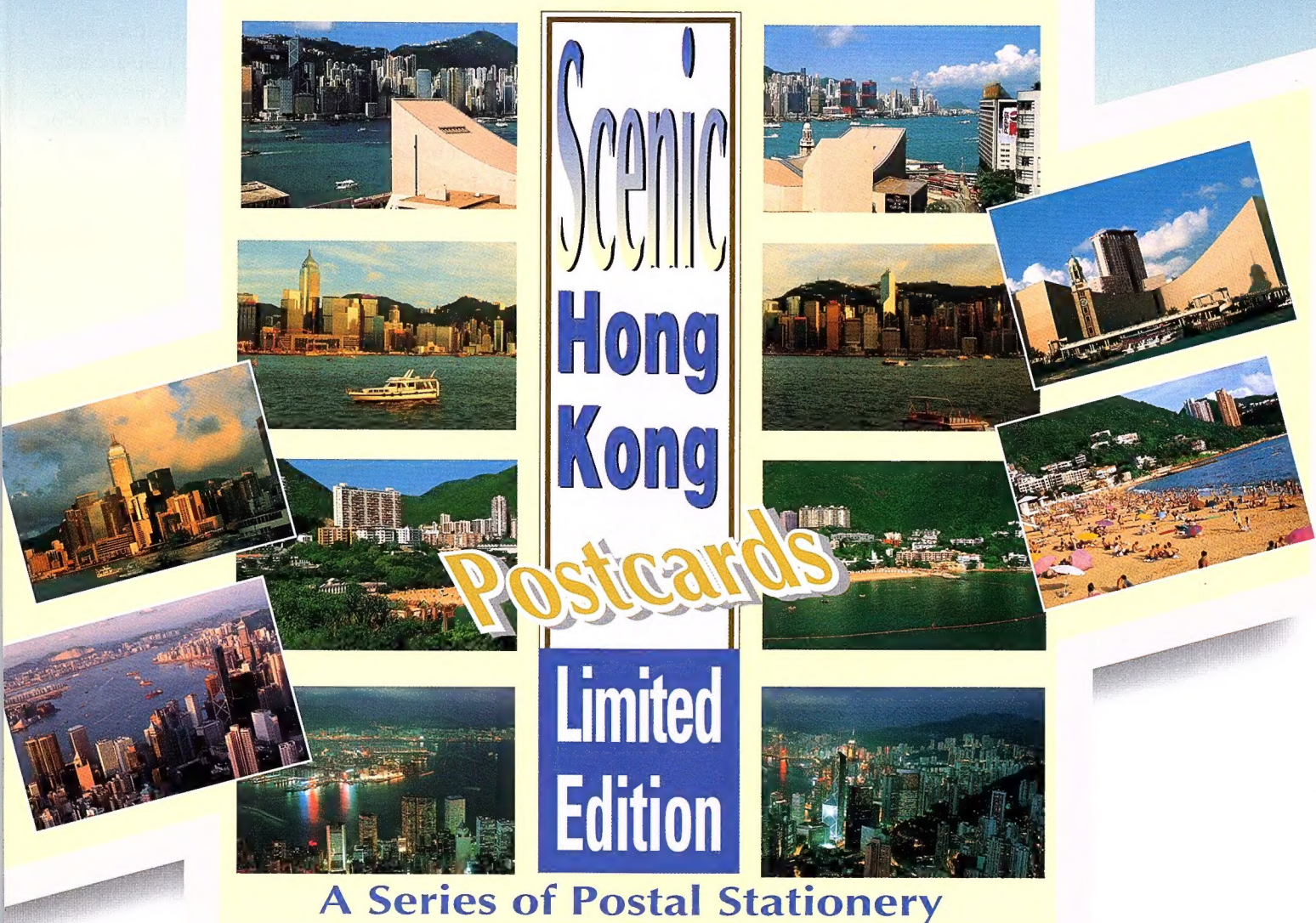


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電話：2516 9228 Tel: 2516 9228

出版者 Publisher

香港中國旅遊出版社 HK CHINA TOURISM PRESS

香港鰂魚涌華蘭路20號 24/F, Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road,

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承印者 Printer

中華商務彩色印刷有限公司 C & C Offset Printing Co. Ltd.

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EDITORIAL

BYGONE DAYS

Mention Beijing and most people think of wide boulevards, sprawling palaces, the vast and controversial Tian'anmen Square and "red tape". But at the heart of a nation of more than a billion people, it self-consciously strives to be the finest and most modern city in China. This is a city locked in tradition whose people have come to terms with old teahouses alongside McDonald's, Peking opera alongside Elton John and flashing neon lights. But somehow Beijing manages to retain an air of dignity which it has acquired over the passing centuries. By leaving the main boulevards it is still possible for one to plunge into the network of residential *butongs* (alleys), to find a series of interlocking households, where families cluster in old-fashioned compounds and where Chinese life can be seen at its most typical and traditional.

In this month's issue we tour you through the city sights of Beihai Park, Tian'anmen Square, the Imperial and Summer Palaces, the Great Wall and the ethereally lovely Ming Tombs as well as give you an insight into this city of bizarre contrasts. In the words of our reporter we show you "the old man acting like a young teenager"!

For those with a fascination for the eerie our next article is for you.... In Sichuan Province we journey to the Black Bamboo Gully where, for the local Yi people, trespassing in this misty, hazardous place is a time-honoured taboo. Macabre legends, strange disappearances of explorers and rumours of "wild men" abound in this gully dubbed China's equivalent to the "Bermuda Triangle".

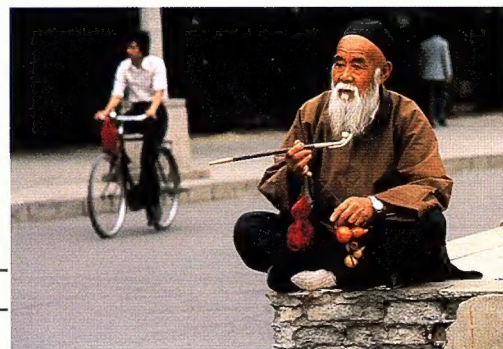
Lastly, we take you to Dali lying on the western edge of Lake Erhai in Yunnan Province. Dali has long been famous for its marble which has been used in temples and palaces around China. A major drive is now being made to gain income from tourism and this is certainly an enchanting place where it is easy to sit back and relax, to watch the local fishermen at work with their comorants and experience ancient traditions such as the Three Course Tea ceremony. Dating back to the Nanzhao Period it is made to a well-guarded, secret recipe ... you won't find this on sale in your local supermarket!

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Beijing Turns Three Thousand

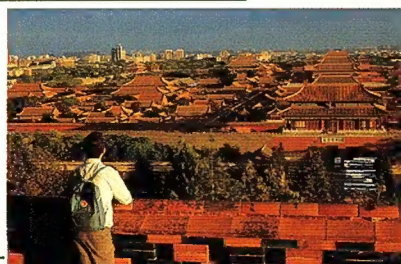
Turning 3,000 years old deserves special recognition and so we bring you an in-depth report on Beijing. A stalwart city in the process of converting itself from a dignified, venerable metropolis into a bustling, modern capital city — one of the most populous in the world — we feature this city of contrasts with a tour of modern Beijing. Where to eat, what to visit and what to buy, as well as stepping into a bygone age of hutongs and Peking opera. But whether you eat, drink, go shopping or sightseeing, Beijing has preserved enough of its past to make any visit unforgettable.



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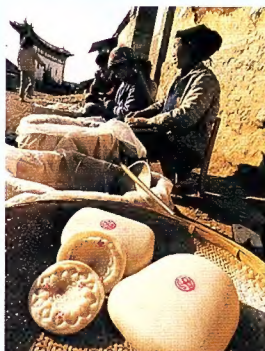
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A Trip to Dali

Described as China's Switzerland, Dali, on Lake Erhai, has created its own Foreigners' Street where tourists sit at roadside cafes to relax and watch the world go by. Easy in a land blessed with crimson sunsets and pink dawns and where the charming Bai people have quaint customs such as offering their traditional "three course tea" to visitors.... Plus find out why our reporter was invited to pinch a woman's face!

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A Lamaist Festival on Wutai Mountain

In the sixth lunar month on Wutai Mountain, Shanxi Province a dramatic "devil dance" is performed by the Yellow Sect of Tibetan monks. Seemingly completely out of character for genteel monks the ritual denounces all those who have tried to suppress Buddhism through history as being trouble-making devils who have to be driven out. Amidst elaborate costumes, firecrackers and chanted scriptures, thousands of worshippers gather to be enthralled by the ritual each year.



A Hazardous Adventure into China's 'Bermuda'

The mysterious Black Bamboo Gully is situated in Ebian Yi Autonomous County, Sichuan Province. Virgin forests, overhanging cliffs, secret caves, deep hidden brooks and leaping, tumbling waterfalls, have combined to form a bewitching landscape that is yet to be fully explored. Taboos abound in this forbidden land, and so this tale of adventure (or is it trespassing?) makes for an eerie, fascinating read.

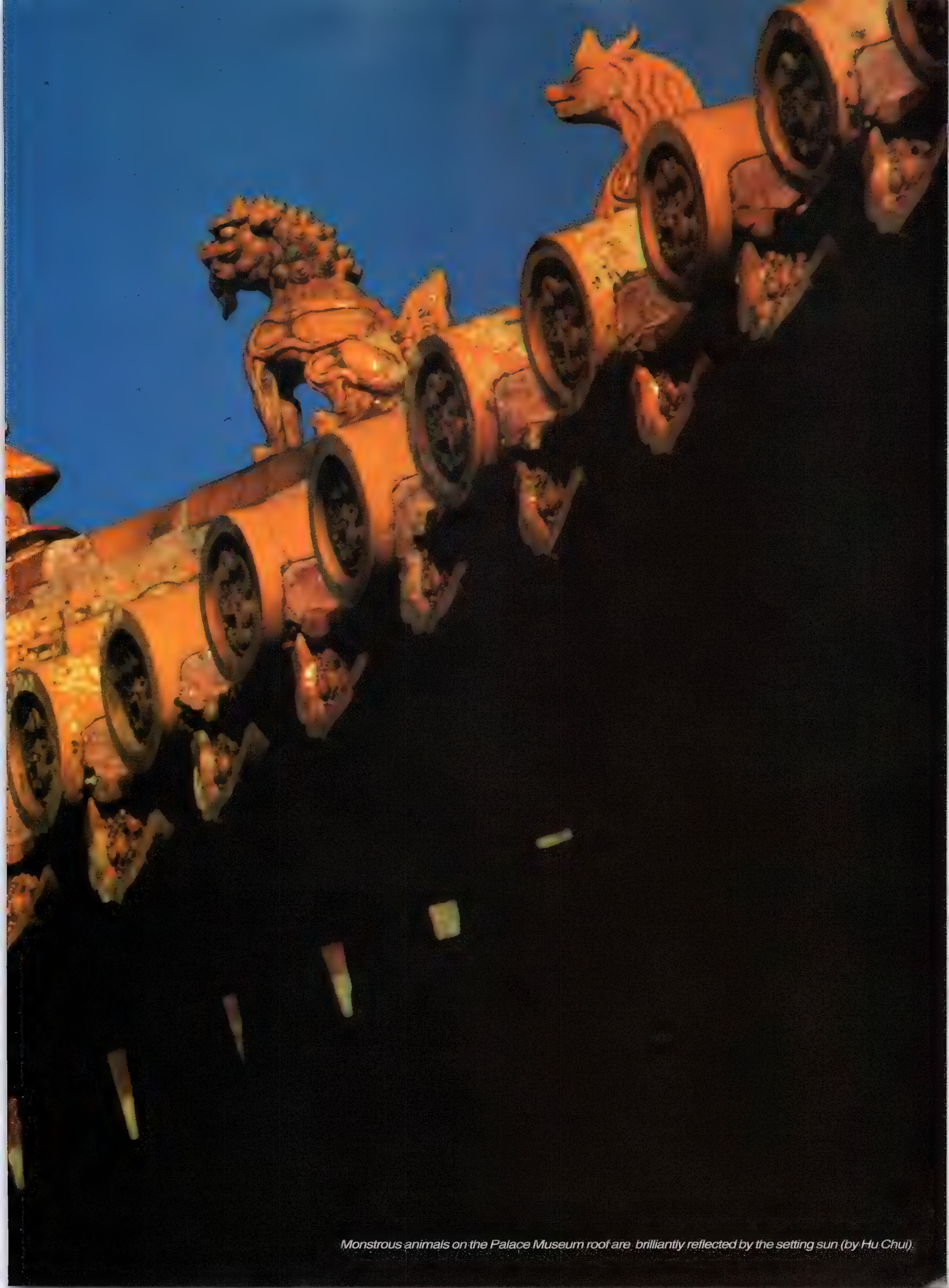


Front Cover: Glazed tile eaves decorated with monstrous animals in Beijing's Forbidden Palace (by Hu Chui)

BEIJING TURNS THREE THOUSAND

For historical reasons the 3,000-year-old ancient capital Beijing is imbued with imperial ambience, fused with a modern current, and is becoming an international metropolis.





Monstrous animals on the Palace Museum roof are brilliantly reflected by the setting sun (by Hu Chui)



THE GLORY of BYGONE DAYS

故宮像一頂
永久的王冠，使得北京
成爲獨一無二的
東方古都

A Red-Flag sedan car whizzed through the city. On board was the *jin ding*, a ritual bronze utensil exquisitely crafted some 3,000 years ago. The time span between yesterday and today was immediately shortened and brought to mind the pomp and pageantry of ancient Beijing, the fabled capital of the State of Yan.

The *jin ding*, recently discovered during an archaeological excavation of the ruins of a royal palace at Dongjialin Village in Fangshan County's Liulihe



Township is the largest Western Zhou-dynasty ritual bronzeware ever unearthed in Beijing.

According to the history books, the State of Yan was feoffed by the Duke Zhao of Shi after Western Zhou eliminated the Shang Dynasty. The ruins of Liulihe Township, with its colossal size and wealth of artifacts shows the actual site where the State of Yan was feoffed during the early Zhou Dynasty. The ruins also testify to the actual time that Beijing was first established as a city.

It is unusual anywhere in the world for a city to survive 3,000 years. During that span of time Beijing gradually evolved from being a tribal settlement to a vital strategic stronghold, and from

1. A serious-looking actor with the traditional facial make-up of Beijing Opera (by Wang Miao)

2. Taihe Gate viewed through the latticed window of Aspect Hall (by Wang Miao)

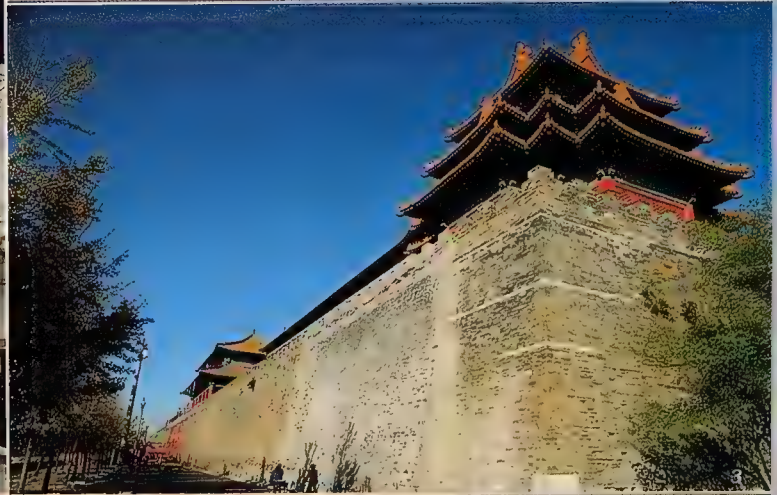
3. Classic long-sleeved dance performance (by Wang Miao)

4. A quadrangle - viewed from the Drum Tower (by Wang Miao)

5. Main entrance of Prince Gong's Mansion (by Wang Wenbo)

6. An experienced "three-dynasty old diehard" (by Wang Wenbo)





the capital of a feudal autocracy to a world-famous metropolis. Reminders of Beijing's venerable past are "a dime a dozen". The pair of ornamental pillars in front of the Tian'anmen Rostrum, the exotic-shaped rocks erected by the gates of quadrangles and the aged, yet still blooming, Chinese scholar trees in the dark hutongs, are but a few of many examples.

GONGS AND BELLS

In my family's early years we lived not far from the Palace Museum. I often climbed up Coal Hill in Jingshan Park and from the Pavilion of Ten Thousand Springs on the hilltop, my eyes would

trace the axis of the city's layout and catch a glimpse of the magnificent view of the Forbidden City, a symbol of awesome imperial power, spreading like an ocean of golden roofs shimmering in the warm glow of the sun.

The Palace Museum is a generous historical legacy bequeathed to later generations. Like an unshakable crown, it is the pride of Beijing and because of it there is no other oriental capital like Beijing. It stands as if to show that only northern China is large enough to contain its mammoth collection of 9,000 buildings with a total floorspace of 150,000 square metres and spreading over 72 hectares of land.

Looking north along the central city line, one invariably sees the Bell and Drum Towers. Standing a dozen metres apart, the two towers once served as time-keepers for Beijingers during the long period when time was still measured by burning incense sticks.

Seven hundred years ago, when the sun set in the western hills, the entire city would reverberate with the beating of the drums. The rhythm changed once in every 18 beats, until the drums had been beaten 108 times. Then the bell was struck another 108 times. After this was over, the city gates would be shut, street traffic would come to a standstill and night watchmen would start to roam the

1. The Palace Museum is always overcrowded (by Xie Guanghui).
2. Morning exercises outside the Imperial Palace (by Wang Wenbo)
3. The corner tower of the Forbidden City (by Shao Hua)
4. The Echo Wall of Temple of Heaven (by Chan Yat Nin)
5. Ancient Observatory Terrace (by Liu Jiaxiang)
6. A Beijing Opera actress (by Xie Guanghui)
7. Fangshan Restaurant inside Beihai Park (by Xie Guanghui)
8. The theatre inside Prince Gong's Mansion (by Wang Wenbo)



city's numerous streets and alleys. The bell was then struck once every two hours until daybreak.

This system of marking the hours lasted for more than 600 years which spanned the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties. Abolished in 1924, the Bell and Drum Towers subsequently became tourist attractions. However, on any given day the two towers look somewhat deserted in comparison to the Palace Museum and the Zhengyang (Central Brightness) Gate. Only one of the 24 cowhide-covered drums remains marked by bayonet scars incurred by the Eight-Power Allied Forces – aggressive troops sent by Britain, the United States, Germany, France, tsar-

ist Russia, Japan, Italy and Austria in 1900 to suppress the anti-imperialist Yihetuan (Boxers) Movement of the Chinese people. During my visit to the towers I came across a young man who said he was composing a song. A photographer from Britain was clicking away at his camera. The young man, his left foot wrapped in bandages, ran limping up the 75 steps of the stairway. He told me that he had just finished composing the music for the Bell Tower.

HUTONGS

The Drum Tower overlooks a maze of narrow lanes and alleyways arranged in a straight and regular fashion as befitting

an imperial city. Dongsì and Xidan, the two streets right below the tower, used to be where the action was in old Beijing. All large streets were as wide as 24 steps and the smaller were 12 steps wide. Still narrower were the alleyways and hutongs, where the real life of Beijing unfolded on a daily basis.

In Beijing, "3,600 of the hutongs have names but even more of them are nameless", as the saying goes. The sight of an old man sitting idly below a luxuriant cypress tree in a hutong makes one forget the hustle and bustle of city life only a dozen metres away. Each hutong is flanked on both sides with houses, with one family living next door to the other. Each courtyard, no matter how inconspicuous, has its own story to tell about the family's rise and fall. The residents' attachment to the hutongs is so intimate that whenever a neighbourhood is scheduled to be demolished to make room for the municipal zoning plan, the old-timer finds it hard to leave his house no matter how run-down it is. Only by entering the narrow hutongs can one find the most authentic touch of the Beijing way of life.

Quadrangles are a salient feature of the hutongs and epitomizes the cherished Chinese desire for four generations of family to live under the same roof. Today, however, fewer quadrangles are occupied by a single family, instead it is not uncommon to see several or even a dozen families sharing the same quadrangle. Even if a quadrangle is shared by a single large family, the members tend to go it alone with their own nucleus families. What remains unchanged about these quadrangles is the fact that the older Beijingers are ever so kind-hearted and courteous, living their lives in relaxation and contentment.

Translated by Ling Yuan
Article by Su Xiaohuan

New high-rises stand on Sanhuan Road (by Wang Wenbo)



Modern Times: Old *Versus* New

一手挽着過去，

一腳踏向未來；

北京既對往昔戀戀不捨，

又對今日充滿了憧憬。



*Riding on a bicycle – a feeling of nostalgia
(by Xie Guanghui)*

Beijing is synonymous with venerability, but youthfulness is yet another of its new-found qualities.

CORRUPTED DIALECT

The authentic Beijing dialect is seldom heard today. The recitations of the actors and actresses of the celebrated Beijing People's Theatre are heavily corrupted. The typical Beijing slang, which came into being during the Qin, Han and Jin dynasties (221 B.C.-A.D. 420), can only be found in ancient books. When the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) moved its capital to Beijing, the local dialect came under the influence of various central Chinese accents.

The changes are even more keenly felt in these years of reform and opening up to the outside world. Cantonese was probably the first to captivate Beijing, followed by the kind of Mandarin spoken in Hong Kong and Taiwan, so much so that Beijing actors and actresses have developed a penchant for tainting their native tongue with a touch of Cantonese or the Hong Kong or Taiwan brand of Mandarin. Even Fujianese, Yangzhou dialect, the quick-tempo Sichuanese and the sweet-tongued Shanghai dialects are exerting their impact on the way the Beijing people talk. As if all that is not enough, English, Japanese, Russian, French, etc., have come into vogue. The "English Corner" at the Purple Bamboo Park is the Mecca for young people. This high tide language craze seems to be part of

Beijing's ongoing metamorphosis into a global metropolis.

ALIEN FOOD

The typical Beijing cuisine, as represented by the Tan Family kitchen fare and various delicatessens, is also in danger of being consigned into oblivion. The once famous Big Four Restaurants – Fuxingju, Wanxingju, Tongxingju and Dongxingju – and the Eight Pavilions (including Tonghe Pavilion and Wanfu Pavilion) are no longer the favourites they used to be. In their place have risen an army of "invaders" – cuisine from Chaozhou, Canton, Sichuan, Northeast China as well as Japan and Korea. McDonald's and Pizza Hut, too, have exerted their pressure. The old-timer's obsession with the traditional style of imperial restaurants is challenged by those with gadgets such as man-made waterfalls and flashy neon lights. The Fangshan Restaurant in Beihai Park seems to be the only place for those wanting to indulge in the pomp and ceremony of former imperial days whilst those who love authentic Beijing delicatessens go to the annual temple fair held in the Longtan Park near the Temple of Earth, or the night food booths in Dongdan and Dongsu. The tiny corn-flour bun, a favourite of the Empress Dowager Cixi of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), is now mass-produced in Beijing; packed in de-luxe wrappings, it serves as an excellent gift.

The antique-selling area of Liuli-

chang sits in striking contrast with the Lufthansa Plaza, where the world's latest fashion is sold. In the 10,000-seat Workers' Gymnasium, the rock star Cui Jian and his band are making a fanfare, while the downtown Lao She Teahouse remains a paradise for those who want to enjoy Beijing's traditional opera and ballad-singing to the accompaniment of drum beating. The vermilion city walls and old imperial palaces are cast into shadows by the neon lights of high-rise buildings with their trademark automatic sliding doors and outlandish interior decor.

CONTRASTS

Present-day Beijing is a world of stark contrasts – the cheongsam and the miniskirt, kite flying and computer games, ancient-coin collectors and stock market speculators, those who raise crickets and those who raise pet dogs, those with bodyguards and those with a charming female escort in tow, the rickshaw puller and the taxi driver, those who drink *erguotou* (a strong Beijing liquor) and those who drink only X.O., street barbers and flashy beauty parlours, those with a key hanging on their chest to those with a beeper, those who sell old fashioned candied crabberries and those who hawk gift cards, those who play the *erhu* and those who listen to CDs, the waltz and the traditional *Yangko* Dance to the accompaniment of drums and gongs, cars with portraits of Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai dangling from their wind-






screen and those who wear a cross on their neck, the bicyclist who rushes to work while chewing a deep-fried twisted doughnut and the gentleman who drives his car to work after drinking a cup of milk, country girls who have turned into family nurses and college graduates who work for foreign bosses, small-time workshops and colossal joint ventures, parking lots crowded with bicycles and the traffic-packed ring roads. These comparisons and contrasts are all contained in a somewhat bizarre picture of harmony known as Beijing.

A FUTURE ROOTED IN THE PAST

Beijing is at a crossroads between today and tomorrow. The accumulatory marks of history exist alongside the kaleidoscopic milieu of reality and there exists both disappointment and hope, old traditions and new-fangled ideas, setbacks and opportunities, and above all, history and the future.

There is the mini-Beijing park which crystallizes Beijing's past, and there is also the World Park with its assemblage of scaled-down replicas of all the major landmarks around the world. This is Beijing, proceeding towards the future with its past cradled in its arms, reluctant to discard what it has, yet eager to become international.

Beijing, as it stands today, is behaving like an old man and a teenager. 

Translated by Ling Yuan
Article by Xiao Fuxing



7



8

1. Unfettered night outside the Great Wall Hotel (by Wang Wenbo)
2. Xidan Shopping Centre (by Liu Yang)
3. Golf course in suburban Beijing (by Wang Miao)
4. Cars streaming on Sanhuan Road (by Chen Guangjun)
5. Kentucky Fried Chicken and McDonald's (by Xie Guanghui)
6. A bird's-eye view of a clear cross-flyover (by Che Fu)
7. Luxurious China Hotel (by Xie Guanghui)
8. Resplendent nightlife (by Zhang Shuhe)

Imperial Relics



With a history of 3,000 years, Beijing boasts many cultural relics. Its magnificent ancient architecture ranges from palaces, where emperors once lived, to gardens and parks where they sought pleasure, through to temples where they offered sacrifices. Without exception visitors to Beijing want to see these remains of former imperial pomposity.

FORBIDDEN CITY

The Forbidden City, standing at the centre of Beijing, best reflects the style of the imperial family. A quick look at the Palace Museum will take at least two hours and a closer look will take more than a day. Therefore, you'd better start as soon as it opens at 8:30 a.m., since its ticket office closes at 4:00 p.m. and the whole place shuts down at 5:00 p.m.

There are two possible routes to visit the Palace Museum. One is to enter from Xuanwu Gate (the back gate), rent a tape recorder containing a tourist guide in the language you prefer and see the Imperial Garden first. Then move on to the Clocks Hall, the Bronze Hall, the Ceramics Hall, the Paintings Hall, the Jewelry Hall, the Arts and Crafts Hall and the Hall of Cultural Relics Through the Dy-

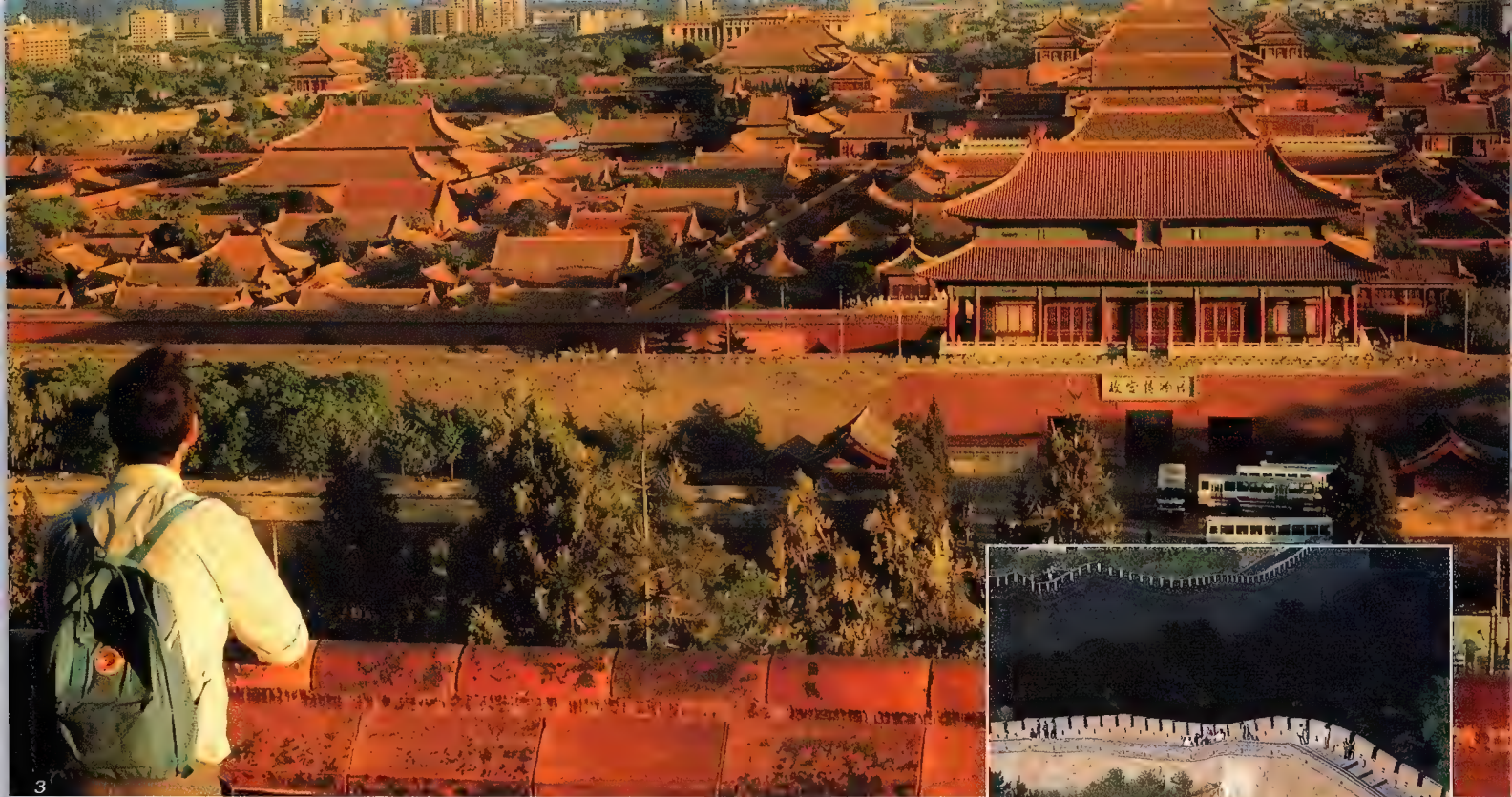
nasties. Then move on to the Hall of Preserving Harmony, the Hall of Central Harmony and the Hall of Supreme Harmony and leave from the Meridian Gate (the front gate). After that, you can go to the top of the Tian'anmen Rostrum to watch the traffic of cars and people on the Chang'an Avenue and overlook Tian'anmen Square to get the feeling of being a national leader.

The second route is to go to the Tian'anmen Rostrum first and enter the Palace Museum from the Meridian Gate and exit from the Xuanwu Gate. Not to be missed is a visit to the Jingshan Park just across the street. At the Eternal Spring Pavilion, you can get an overview of the grandeur of the Palace Museum.

BEIHAI PARK

Beihai (North Sea) Park, lying close to the Palace Museum and Jingshan Park was, for five dynasties, a resort for the rulers - Liao, Jin, Yuan, Ming and Qing. What first catches the eye is the white dagoba towering on top of the hill called Qiongdao or Jade Island, which is surrounded by the rippling waters of a "sea". Boat rowing on the lake is an interesting activity. Painted pleasure boats can carry 500 tourists and smaller boats are particularly favoured by people in love. Unfortunately, it is not possible to row into the joining lake called Zhong-nanhai or the Central South Sea which is not open to visitors. There are the Five Dragon Pavilions, the Nine Dragon Screen and





the Fangshan (Imperial Cuisine) Restaurant which, as its name implies, offers dishes which used to be reserved for emperors. Call early to for reservations.

TEMPLE OF HEAVEN

The Temple of Heaven or Tiantan Park is also a popular place for Beijing residents to do their morning exercises, practise martial arts and breathing exercises or just to take along their caged birds to enjoy the morning. Twice as large as the Palace Museum, there is a quite bit of walking to do. It is open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. During the Ming and Qing dynasties (1368-1911), emperors used to come here to offer sacrifices to god and pray for good harvests. There were other places in Beijing for emperors to make sacrifices such as the Temple of Earth, Temple of Sun and Temple of Moon. They have all been turned into public parks but they are much smaller and less interesting than the Temple of Heaven. What is most attractive to visitors is the Echo Wall and the Triple-Echo Stones inside the Imperial Vault.

THE SUMMER PALACE

The Summer Palace is about 12 kilometres northwest of the city proper. It can be reached by taking the bus No. 332 at Beijing Zoo or bus No. 375 at Xizhimen. The park opens at 6:00 a.m. and closes at 7:00 p.m.

One of the most interesting things to do in the Summer Palace is to ascend Longevity Hill. To reach the summit from the foot of the hill, one passes by the

Hall of Benevolent Longevity, the Hall of Jade Billows, the Hall of Pleasing Rue, the Hall of Joyful Longevity and the Tower of Buddhist Incense standing on the summit, which were all built for Empress Dowager Cixi and Emperor Guangxu of the Qing Dynasty to work, live or seek pleasure. Another interesting activity is boat rowing on the Kunming Lake. Along its bank is the 700-metre Long Gallery, the Marble Boat and inside the lake there are three small islands, a long dike and a 17-arch stone bridge. This is one of the best sights in Beijing.

IMPERIAL GARDEN

The Yuanmingyuan or Park of Perfection and Brightness, once described as the "park of all parks", was burned down by an allied force of British and French soldiers 130 years ago. All that remains is a handful of broken but finely carved pillars of one of the former park structures. To go there, one can take the bus No. 332 at Beijing Zoo to Zhongguancun and change to bus No. 365.

THE MING TOMBS

Direct tourist buses go to the Ming Tombs from Qianmen and Chongwenmen. In two hours, the buses will enter the mausoleum area where 13 emperors of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) were buried. The most magnificent of them all is the Changling while the most meticulously structured is the Yongling. At the underground palace at Dingling, many beautiful burial objects have been excavated and are now on display.

THE GREAT WALL AT BADALING

Further north from the Ming Tombs on the tourist bus, is the Great Wall at Badaling. The bus stops at Juyong Pass and visitors can now walk up the wall which served as a protection for the imperial capital. Further away from the city proper, one can also visit the Great Wall at Mutianyu and Simatai where the terrain is more breathtaking.

Translated by Huang Youyi
Article by Bao Xiu

1. "Dressing Up" at the Summer Palace (by Wang Wenbo)
2. Qiniandian Hall at Temple of Heaven (by Wang Miao)
3. The view from Jingshan Park overlooking the Forbidden City (by Chan Yat Nin)
4. Badaling Great Wall is a favourite for tourists (by Chan Yat Nin).
5. Temple of Confucius is now the Capital Museum I (by Xie Guanghui).



A Tour Through Modern Beijing

In recent years, Beijing has become a world-class modern metropolis. Its urban and suburban areas are dotted with modern-style tourist spots, recreation centres and holiday sites.

TODAY'S TIAN'ANMEN SQUARE

No matter how long your stay in Beijing, you must visit Tian'anmen Square. On this vast, well-known square visitors gather from all parts of the country, foreign tourists and local Beijingers alike. If you listen you will hear many different languages and dialects spoken. If there is a good wind over the square you will see kites of all shapes and sizes being flown, a common pastime of Beijingers. A huge assortment of kites are available. Tourists usually take photos with Tian'anmen Rostrum, the Monument to the People's Heroes and the Great Hall of the People as the background.

CITY VIEW FROM THE TV TOWER

By buying a ticket of 50 yuan, you can ascend the China Central TV Tower to the west of Yuyuantan Park, giving you a panoramic view of this grand metropolis with buildings and houses extending to the horizon. To its southwest lies the





Shijingshan Recreation Centre, with its giant ferris wheel and Disneyland-style ancient castles with pointed roofs.

RECREATION CENTRES

Beijing has many recreation centres. In the Asian Games Village in the northern suburbs, there is a Beijing Entertainment Centre offering bowling, billiards, tennis, squash and a gymnasium.

The International Recreation Centre in Miyun County is the largest with the greatest number of attractions. Not only does it have a roller coaster, torrent adventure, swinging rotating discs, but also above-ground bicycles, light racing cars, laser guns and a large-scale race course.

Under the Ming Tomb Reservoir, there is also the Nine Dragon Recreation Centre, the largest aquarium in Asia.

COLOURED NIGHT LIFE

In recent years, Beijing's night life has become more colourful. The city has 100 luxury song and dance halls, clubs and nightclubs normally open in the evening till early the next morning. Nightclubs, generally found inside star-rated hotels and guesthouses, are luxuriously decorated with Chinese and foreign bands and singers.

At night, karaoke can be heard in the streets. If you stroll through Beijing in the summer, the streets are even busier than during the day. Snake stalls, decorated with coloured lights, not only serve food, but also play karaoke. Large-screen TV sets are placed on the street, and so the price is reasonable. Young people seeking the limelight compete with each other to show off their singing talents.



Translated by M. Q.

Text by Bao Xiu

Major Recreation Centres

Name	Location	Telephone	Transportation
Beijing Kangle Palace	Asian Games Village, north suburbs	4912233	Bus No. 18, 62, 328, alight at Xiaoguan North Station
Beijing Recreation Centre	1 Zuo'anmen Avenue, Chongwenmen		Bus No. 6, 60, 116, alight at terminus
Shijingshan Recreation Centre	Bajiao Village, Shijingshan	5113611	Alight at Bajiaocun Station, Beijing Subway
Nine Dragons Recreation Centre	Artificial island on Ming Tombs Reservoir	9722164	Bus No. 345, get off at Deshengmen
Miyun International Recreation Centre	7 km north of Miyun County town	9923585	By long-distance bus from Dongzhimen
Miyun Hunting Ground	Xinchengzi Township, Miyun County	9924471	Ditto

1. The ground floor of the CCTV Tower is a shopping centre including a recreation centre, restaurants and department stores (by Liu Jiaxiang).

2. Tian'anmen Square is a favourite spot for tourists (by Xie Guanghui).

3. Disneyland-style Shijingshan Recreation Centre (by Wang Miao).

4. Having a night tour of the streets of Beijing, one can feel the sentiment of the ancient cultural city (by Xie Guanghui).

5. Various kinds of old-style transportation are available outside Beijing Miniature Garden (by Liu Yang).

6. The top of the China Central TV Tower is the best place for a bird's-eye view of the whole city (by Xie Guanghui).



Tours of Natural Scenery *in* Suburban Beijing

In the suburban counties of Beijing exists a plethora of natural scenic sites. Having enjoyed a visit to the magnificent imperial palaces and gardens as well as having felt the prosperous, busy life of this ancient and modern metropolis, the visitor will find special pleasure in experiencing the refreshing suburban life with wild mountains and rivers.

THE TENTH FORD

Shidu or the Tenth Ford is located deep in the Taihang Mountains in Fangshan District in Beijing, where a 15-kilometre-long section of the Juma River meanders its way through the mountain valleys between abrupt peaks which appear as if they had been carved out by a sword. A typically wild place with natural mountains and waters one can rent a horse-drawn cart along the river and experience the pleasure of the mountains and rivers in Guilin, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. In summer, one should remember to bring along a swimsuit as the clear waters of the Juma River are extremely inviting. There are long-distance buses going to Shidu from Tianqiao and Lianhuachi in the city district. One can also take the grassland line train from Yongdingmen Station and alight at Shidu Station.

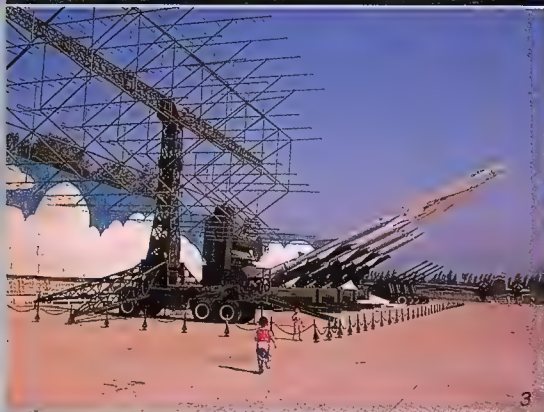
KANGXI GRASSLAND

Going further west from Badaling on the Great Wall, one arrives at Kangxi Grassland. It is very difficult for one to imagine that less than 80 kilometres away from the city district, there can be such an enchanting place where oxen and sheep graze on the lush grass blown low by the wind. The most rewarding part of a trip is to ride on horseback. Farmers rent their horses to visitors and for those who have no experience, the farmers are there to teach. Just imagine the pleasure of riding a galloping horse on the grasslands.

To get to Kangxi Grassland, take the train from Xizhimen Station and get off at Kangzhuang, change to the bus and you will arrive there in 10 minutes. An alternative is to take a direct long-distance bus from Beijiao Market.

LONGQING GORGE

A reservoir adds grace to these strange-looking mountain peaks. To ride a pleasure boat through the crooked valley with a cool breeze makes one forget how hot it is. In winter, the caves in the valley display ice lanterns of different colours and shapes. To get to Longqing Gorge, take a long-distance bus at Beijiao Market, the distance is 80 kilometres.



WATER PARADISE

Yanqi or Swan Alighting Lake, 55 kilometres from the city, not only attracts people with its beautiful scenery, but also offers many pleasures such as rowing dragon boats, speedboats, water slides, swimming and sunbathing. On the banks are many wooden cabins in various architectural styles, complete with all necessary facilities.

North of the lake is the Mutianyu section of the Great Wall and Yunmeng Mountain Nature Reserve. Also nearby is the Shenyutang Scenic Area.

There are long-distance buses from Dongzhimen to Swan Alighting Lake.

WHITE DRAGON POOL

Located in the White Dragon Pool Scenic Area in the county of Miyun, the White Dragon Pool is not large, but the three joining waterfalls offer a fantastic sight, especially in the rainy season. Thick wood and grotesque rocks are plentiful in this scenic area. West of the lake is the Miyun Nature Reserve. There is also a holiday village, swimming pools and a hunting ground nearby.

To get to the White Dragon Pool, one can take a long-distance bus at Dongzhimen.

GLACIER MASTERPIECE

Among clear gurgling creeks and large patches of natural kiwi fruit gardens there are three huge rocks which are a "masterpiece of creation", the glaciers the Quaternary Period. To visit the Yunxiu Valley, one can take a long-dis-

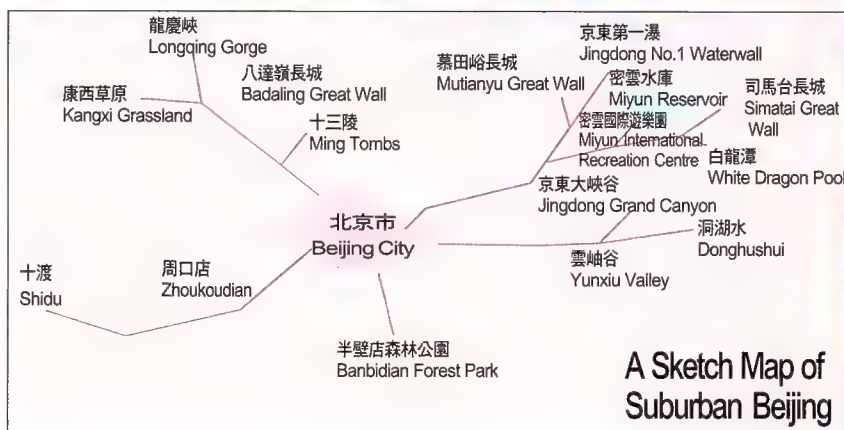
tance bus from Dongzhimen and alight at Chengzi Township.

JINGDONG VALLEY

Ten kilometres northeast of the county seat of Pinggu the five adjoining lakes, natural waterfalls, high mountains and dangerously steep cliffs offer an impressive view. To go there, first take a long-distance bus to Pinggu County and then change to a mini-bus to the entrance of the valley.

Translated by Huang Youyi
Article by Bao Xiu

1. Touring in Shidu (Tenth Ford) by a horse-drawn cart is as romantic as an immortal (by Chan Yat Nin).
2. The strange peaks and deep waters in Longqing Gorge offer people a taste of wildlife (by Shao Hua).
3. The China Aviation Museum is located in Changping County and can be reached by Bus 912 from Yongdingmen (by Chan Yat Nin).
4. Now you can buy a certificate of "brave man" after climbing up the Great Wall (by Xie Guanghui).
5. Viewing the Shidu Grand Canyon from the mountaintop, the scene is extraordinarily beautiful (by Chan Yat Nin).





A Flavour of Beijing

In the old days there was a saying, "It's all right not to visit the Forbidden City, but you must go to Tianqiao if you come to Beijing." Why? Before 1949, there existed teahouses, opera houses, storytelling yards, a martial arts practice ground and a myriad of streets where antiques, second-hand and imported goods were sold. It was a typical area full of Beijing

flavour. Today things have changed, but the atmosphere still lingers on, and it is worth experiencing.

ENJOY PEKING OPERA

In today's Tianqiao, though not as prosperous as in the past, the Liyuan Opera House and teahouses still hold the atmosphere of a bygone age and attract many tourists. The Liyuan Opera House, where people can still enjoy Peking Opera, is located at the ground floor of Qianmen Hotel. It opens from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. with an admission fee of 180 yuan. The plays performed are genuine, and the audience still sits around large square tables in old-style chairs sipping tea. Waiters and waitresses run among the tables adding water and serving snacks. It is full of traditional style. If you are interested, you may also hire a Peking Opera costume, have your face painted as one of the characters in the opera and have a photo taken.

Lao She Teahouse is located next door to the Kentucky Fried Chicken Shop in the west street of Qianmen and also opens at 7 p.m. While the audience sips tea, performances are given, such as Peking Opera, Kunqu Opera, Pingju





Opera, Beijing-style drum storytelling, cross-talk and others.

On Nanheyuan Street you can also find the Beijing Teahouse. The Tianqiao Joy Teahouse located at Tianqiao Market was built in the style of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

BIG BOWL TEA

If you want to really enjoy a true flavour of Beijing, you must try the Big Bowl Tea and the sweet and sour candied haws on a stick served in the streets. The bowl used for Big Bowl Tea is bigger than a person's head and contains about one litre of tea water. Though the tea is not very good, it really quenches your thirst at the cost of only 0.5 yuan. This is a typical scene in the city.



Visiting temple fairs is another of Beijing's attractions. At Spring Festival (usually in February) every year, the Temple of Earth, Longtan (Dragon Pool), Baiyun Taoist Monastery, Great Bell Temple, Grand View Garden, Taoranting Park and other popular places hold fairs where one can see performances of the *Yangko* Dance, walking on stilts, dragon lanterns and Lion Dance. At the same time stalls line the roadsides providing New Year goods, snacks and delicacies. The Beijing temple fairs are one of the traditional city highlights that should be experienced (see box).

VISITING HUTONGS ON TRICYCLE

The quadrangles, with houses built around a courtyard, are typical of traditional Beijing.

Tricycles used to be the local mode of transport in old Beijing and after an absence of a dozen years, they have now reappeared. A company has recently set up offering visits to *hutongs* by tricycle, encouraging authenticity and a trip down Memory Lane.

At the cost of 180 yuan, you can also hire a tricycle and visit the Bell and Drum towers from where you may view the *hutongs* connecting the residential compounds. Descending the Drum you can cross Yinding Bridge, enter the south and north Guanfang *hutongs*, and the large and small Jinsitao *hutongs*. Entering each household, you can enjoy both the architecture and chat with the hosts. If you like, you can also have a dinner of dumplings with one of the hosts. This is real nostalgia!

Translated by M. Q.
Photos by Guang Hui
Article by Bao Xiu

Temple Fairs at the Beijing Spring Festival

Location	Activities	Bus Route
Temple of Heaven	Cultural performance, New Year goods market, local snacks	2, 18, 104, 108
Dragon Pool Temple	Flower fair, <i>yangko</i> , walking on stilts, dragon lanterns, Lion Dance, skating, winter swimming	12, 35, 41, 60
Baiyun Taoist Monastery	Scripture chanting, sacrifice to God, donkey ride, touch stone monkey	40, 48, 309
Big Bell Temple	Performance themes at Yongle Big Bell	203, 367, 379
Grand View Garden	A large scale parade and celebration of Concubine Yuan's home visit based on the episode from <i>A Dream of Red Mansions</i>	49, 59, 53, 903
Taoranting Park	Traditional activities transferred from Changdian and Tianqiao; local snacks, New Year goods and toys market	13, 40, 102

1. Sitting in the Lao She Teahouse watching Peking Opera, one can feel the real "Beijing flavour".

2. This small hutong under the high wall of the Forbidden City was the closet neighbour of the emperor.

3. Old women performing the Yangko Dance is another wonderful scene of Beijing.

4. Outside the high walls of the Forbidden City, where old men show off their birds, chat with each other and have their heads shaved.

5. The Big Bowl Tea in old Beijing is still doing brisk business today.

6. The Bell and Drum towers are important sites for tourists who visit the hutongs on tricycle.

Scenic Attractions in Beijing





Transportation in Beijing




Transportation in Beijing is both easy and convenient, with more than 50,000 taxis which offer service day and night and can be hired at the airport, train stations, hotels and tourist sites. For every kilometre the charge is 1.6 to 2.5 yuan according to the type of vehicle. The minimal charge begins at four kilometres. For night service and one-way pick-up service, there is an additional charge. The yellow mini-van taxis charge one yuan per kilometre and 1.5 yuan for every kilometre beyond ten kilometres. The minimal charge is 10 yuan.

Bus fares in Beijing are really cheap, as they vary from 0.1 to 0.5 yuan according to distance. The buses numbered 1, 4, 52 and 57 charge a flat fare of 0.2 yuan. Normally the buses are crowded, especially during the rush hours from 06:30 to 08:00 and from 17:00 to 18:30. Tourists are advised not to take the bus during these hours. Between the taxis and buses are the mini-buses; they run longer routes, are faster than ordinary buses, not crowded and stop wherever the passenger wishes. Fares range from 1 to 6 yuan.

There are two subway lines in Beijing. Trains on the circle line pass through Beijing Train Station, Dongzhimen, Xizhimen and Fuxingmen at an interval of every four minutes. The 18 stops along the route are all major transportation hubs. The other line offers services between Pingguoyuan and Fuxingmen, where both lines meet and those in transit do not need to leave the station. The fare for the subway is 0.5 yuan.

If you have plenty of time, you can experience life in the small lanes of Beijing by hiring a tricycle. Such tricycles can be found outside hotels or in busy streets. The charge is relatively expensive.

Beijing is certainly a kingdom of bicycles. The former president of the United States, George Bush, rode a bicycle along Chang'an Avenue on his first visit to Beijing despite his busy schedule. You may try the same if you are interested. To see Beijing on a bicycle not only gives you nostalgic pleasure, but also provides the best opportunity to glimpse the residential life here. You can rent a bike from some of the bicycle repair shops or some hotels also provide a rent-a-bike service. Normally, you make a cash deposit of 200 to 800 yuan and at the end pay an hourly charge of four yuan. 

Translated by Huang Youyi
Text by Guang Hui

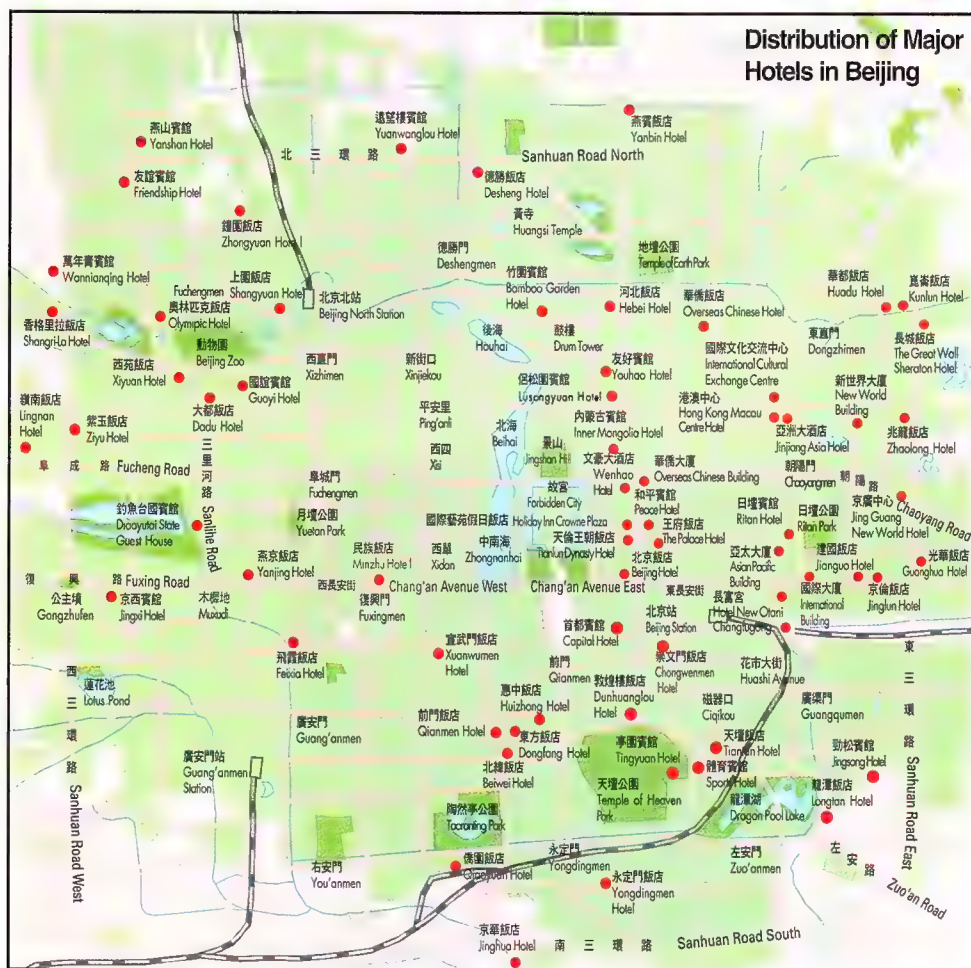
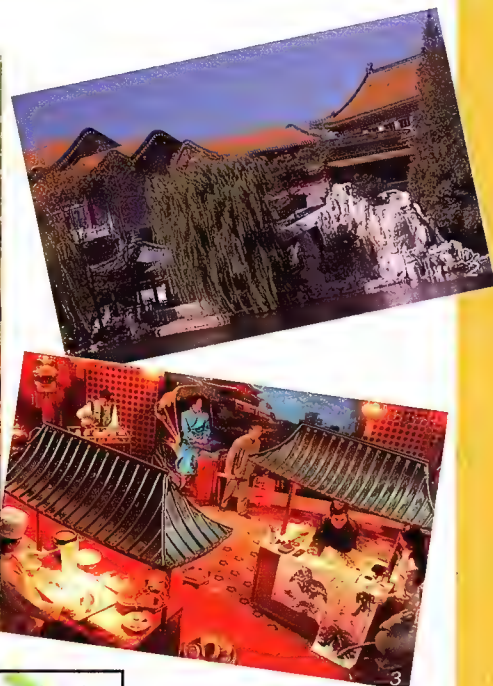


1. Taxis outside Qianmen Gate (by Zhu Jianhui)
2. A deliberately decorated tricycle in Beijing (by Xie Guanghui)
3. Rush hour in Beijing Subway (by Xie Guanghui)

Diaoyutai State Guest House

Ranging from simple rooms to five-star luxury, Beijing has more than 100 hotels to offer. The Palace, China World and Great Wall Sheraton Hotels are only some of the examples of standard international hotels. If you want to go for the ostentatous and extravagant, Diaoyutai State Guest House is an ideal choice. Not only does it has presidential bed, but it also houses magnificent decor. It once used to accommodate only monarchs and presidents, but it is now open to the public. Frankly speaking, the poor cannot bear the expenses, take the presidential house as an example, US\$15,000 will be billed per day!

Text by Guang Hui



Distribution of Major Hotels in Beijing

Reservations:

Tel: 8591960 or 8591957

Room Rates	(US\$)
Standard suite	350
Deluxe suite	1,000
Presidential suite	3,000
House	15,000

1. Olympic Hotel lobby (by Chan Yat Nin)
2. Diaoyutai State Guest House (by Wang Miao)
3. The Palace Hotel "Food Street" Theme Party (provided by Palace Hotel)

Eating in Beijing



Beijing offers food from all over China, from hotels with unique cuisines to local restaurants, to the food stalls selling traditional Beijing snacks low in cost and fast. They include, fried dough twist, bean flour cake, New Year rice cake, jellied bean curd, corn flour bun, baked sweet potato and roasted mutton kebab. The Snack Street near Wangfujing Street provides the best and widest variety and is open from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Visitors to Beijing generally want to taste Beijing Roast Duck. The Quanjudu Restaurant at Qianmen provides a roast duck set dinner at a cost of 25 yuan for one or two persons and the duck is roasted on an open fire, while that cooked by Bianyifang Restaurant is roasted in a hidden fire. The two styles produce different flavours.

The Mongolian hotpot of Beijing is also well known. The best are to be found at Donglaishun, Youyishun and Nengrenju Restaurants. A few people sit

around a hotpot containing boiling stock, into which is dipped finely sliced lamb which is then mixed with a specially-prepared sauce. The taste is delicious, but the best time to eat hotpot is in winter.

Fangshan (Imitating Food by Imperial Kitchen) is regarded as the best in China. Admire

of the past. They include the Xiangyangcun (Facing the Sun Village), Heitudi (Black Land), Huangtudi (Yellow Land) reflecting the period of the "cultural revolution", as well as Suirenshi (Inventor of Fire) and Banpo Hotpot and Beer Village. Enjoying a meal there with a few friends you can truly experience Beijing from time gone by.

If you want to try a State banquet, book a seat at the Great Hall of the People. Price per head is 100-500 yuan.

Tel: 3099331

Translated by M. Q.
Text by Guang Hui



the surroundings of an imperial court you can sample the dishes once served by the imperial kitchens to emperors and empresses, to the original recipes handed down from the cooks at that time. At present there are two genuine Fangshan Restaurants, one in Beihai Park, the other in the Summer Palace where the imperial kitchens used to be.

In recent years, Beijing has opened some restaurants reminiscent



1. McDonald's is always in good grace (by Liu Yang).
2. Roast mutton kebab sold on Wangfujing Snack Food Street (by Xie Guanghui)
3. Some local specialties to be found at the food stalls (by Wang Wenbo)
4. Beijing Roast Duck (by Xie Guanghui)
5. Fangshan Restaurant in Beihai Park (by Xie Guanghui)

Treasures

Shopping is one of the pleasures of travel. The best articles to be bought in Beijing are local handicrafts, art works and antiques. Being the capital of imperial dynasties for more than 1,000 years, Beijing has hosted many artisans, and the handicrafts and art works of Beijing have a concentrated essence of the Chinese nation. Cloisonne, ivory carving, jade ware, lacquerware, stone carving, four treasures of the study (ink stone, ink stick, writing brush and paper), antiques, calligraphy, paintings, silk embroidery, pearls and jadeite are all good buys and are executed with exquisite workmanship. For those who like folk arts the dough, clay and silk figurines, masks, kites and papercuts are also good souvenirs.

Many people regard buying antiques as part of their purpose for visiting Beijing. It is true that Beijing has rich resources of antiques. The Culture Street at Liulichang in Hepingmen is an ideal place to shop for antiques. The famous Rongbaozhai sells Qing-style calligraphy and paintings by well-known authors of the past and the four treasures of the study. China Bookshop is the largest retailer of ancient and used books and you can find ancient coins of different dynasties in the Coin Shop. The Cultural Relics shop and its branches have bamboo, wood and ivory

carvings, porcelains, jade ware and traditional Chinese furniture to sell. Recently, the Beijing Cultural Relics Bureau have approved six open markets, selling ancient and old folk goods. There are four "Old Goods Markets" at Haitiancun Liulichang, Chaoyangmenwai, Sichahai, and Huangchenggen; as well as Hongqiao Market (north gate of the Temple of Heaven Park) and Jingsong Old Handicrafts and Artworks Market. They have already attracted a great number of overseas customers.

If you are wandering among varieties of ancient and old folk artwork, you can take the chance and try to bargain. Although it is a test to be able to choose the genuine from the fake!

Translated by M. Q.
Text by Guang Hui



1. Dressing up – traditional Chinese costume (by Xie Guanghui)
2. Dazhalan Commercial Street (by Xie Guanghui)
3. A store in Dazhalan Garment Market (by Liu Yang)
4. Shichahai Old Goods Market (by Xie Guanghui)



Liulichang Shopping Centre				Dongbeiyuan Hutong								
Yiyuanlou Kongshantang Restaurant	Cuitzenzhai	Rongbeaozhai	Zhuojinzhai	Wenbaoliang China Bookshop Miyazhai	Xinhua Street South	Moge	Baoguzhai					
						Fuchengzhai	Yidege					
						Huaili/rishanfang	Zaiyuxuan					
						Boguzhai	Leixuan					
Liulichang Road West				Wenshengzhai	Hongguangzhai	Siyatang	Songyunge	Yunyuqunzhai	Yanjing Chinese Calligraphy and Paintings Shop			
Zhaohua Chinese Calligraphy and Paintings House	Caidongge	Gingyuntang	Guantuzhai							Industrial and Com- mercial Bank of China	Ancient Book Shop	Jinchang
												Donggongge
												Jiuge
↑ To Beijing Roast Duck Shop				↓ To Qianmen Hotel (Hufangqiao)								



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Iron Oxen and the Pujing Bridge

In July 1989 an exciting archaeological discovery was made outside the western gate of ancient Pujing City, 15 kilometres to the west of present-day Yongji County town, Shanxi Province. Archaeologists found the ancient Pujing Ferry crossing with four cast iron oxen and auxiliary mounts; with statues and pillars made during the Tang Dynasty (618-907). The discovery was not only immensely significant to the study of ancient Chinese politics, economics and culture, but also gave valuable information about casting, bridge-building technology and the shifting of the Yellow River.

The ancient Pujing City, otherwise called Puban in ancient times, was the capital for Yao and Shun, two legendary tribe rulers in ancient China. The city enjoyed very favourable natural conditions: vast surrounding flat lands, abundant rainfall, fresh water, mild weather, and needless to say, luxurious vegetation. It was a good place for people to settle in ancient times and it still is today.

Back in the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.), the first floating bridge ever built on the Yellow River appeared here; it was named Pujing Bridge. The oldest bridge in Chinese



The iron oxen are reclining east-west, with a huge axle on its rear to attach the bridge chain.



1

history, it was in and out of action during its nearly 2,000-year history having been once completely damaged during the late Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) and rebuilt in the early Ming (1368-1644).

During the 1,200 years of the bridge's history it had slowly evolved from a floating bridge mainly using untied boats, to boats connected by bamboo slips, then to make the bridge stronger and more stable boulders were laid at both ends of the bridge in 724 during the Tang Dynasty, and cast iron oxen and statues were placed. The iron mounts under the oxen joined the cast iron objects into one and the bamboo slips were replaced by iron chains tied to the rear of the oxen for more stability.

Each of the four iron oxen, immensely protective of the bridge, was accompanied by a cast iron herdsman standing alongside, being either Uygur, Mongolian, Tibetan and Han respectively. The Han herdsman by the fourth ox was clad in a short-sleeved jacket with an up-turned collar, typical of Tang style.



Translated by Li Guoqing
Photos by Shan Xiaogang
Text by Shan Baojiu

1. The Seven-star Pillar for mooring boats in ancient times, also a symbol of the vault of heaven
2. The third iron ox at the southwest corner and its Tibetan herdsman
3. The iron mounts of the oxen and the huge pillars add weight to the anchors and increase stability



2



3

The Thousand-Fathom Pagoda of the Tang Dynasty and two smaller pagodas of the Song Dynasty are collectively known as the Three Pagodas of Dali. As they used to stand in front of Chongsheng Temple, they are also known as the Three Pagodas of Chongsheng Temple. They are the most famous landmark of Dali (by Huang Jiafa).

Tourists disembark at the Pavilion of the Goddess of Mercy (by Huang Yanhong).



A performance of the Fish Pond Opera in Dali (by Liu Jianhua)





A Trip to Dali

ARTICLE BY HUANG YANHONG

I had heard that Dali in the western part of Yunnan Province is an attractive place. So, as soon as I arrived at Kunming, I got onto a long-distance bus and headed for Dali on the same night. The bus traveled smoothly overnight and reached Dali before it was five o'clock in the morning. After taking a two-hour rest in a hotel, I began a tour of Lake Erhai.

A few minutes after eight, I walked to the ferry, paid 50 yuan and boarded a boat which was to take me on a half-day tour of Lake Erhai. A bevy of pretty girls of the Bai nationality lined the ferry to welcome us on board amidst lively music. At 8:30 the tour boat smoothly shoved off punctually and steered out of the basin. As the lake gradually broadened, the sun began to rise, dyeing the sky and lake surface to crimson. The lake, dotted with a few reeds, the purple lotus and reeds that were



Serving the Three Course Tea of the Bai nationality. The first course is bitter, the second sweet, and the third bitter again to leave a lingering flavour (by Peng Zhen Ge).

The famous 80-square-metre pool of Butterfly Spring in the Butterfly Spring Park (by Wang Miao)



Lake Erhai covers 250 square kilometres and is one of the seven largest fresh-water lakes in China (by Xu Jinyan).



Lake Erhai was formed by fractures in the rock strata nearly 2,000 metres above sea level. Covering 250 square kilometres, it is one of the seven largest fresh-water lakes in China. The lake has an abundant supply of water from the 18 streams of the Nancang Mountains and the Mici and Miju rivers. The water in the lake flows westward into the Xi'er River, which joins the Bijiang and empties into the Lancang River.

The boat moored first at Erhai Park, also known as Xilong (Dragon Resting) Mountain, which was originally a deer park of the royal family of the Kingdom of Nanzhao, a local regime. There used to be Buddhist temples and the famous Pearly Sea Pavilion on the mountain. Unfortunately they have long been reduced to ruins.

The young woman tourist guide led us ashore. Upon reaching the first attractive spot, we were confronted by a group of young Bai women peddling cheap jewellery and other trinkets. Cajoling and pushing, they tried by every means to sell their wares to us and it seemed that they would not let us go before we made our purchases. As I was in a hurry to move along, I bought a box of trinkets for 10 yuan.

After breaking out of the cordon, I followed a flight of stone steps and mounted the Lake Viewing Tower which afforded a fine view of Lake Erhai in the north. Feasting my eyes on the vast expanse of water, I felt unusually restful and relaxed.

Golden Shuttle Island and the Pavilion of the Goddess of Mercy

Leaving Erhai Park, the boat soon reached Jinsuo (Golden Shuttle) Island. Known as the Water City of Buddhist Relics in ancient times, the island was the summer resort of the King of Nanzhao. More than 200 families of fishermen now live on the island. From a distance, I could see that the houses in the village were built in a distinctive style. The boat, however, did not drop anchor here but only turned a half circle around the gourd-shaped island. I had to use a medium-focus lens on my camera to take a few photographs of the village.

When we reached the island on which the Pavilion of the Goddess of Mercy stood, a Buddhist temple, I found there was an elevated spot on the island which commanded a panoramic view. Most of the people, however, had come to see the Goddess of Mercy. The temple was crowded with people both inside and outside. A great number of them had climbed onto the pavilion, which was a wooden structure. I worried that the wooden planks might collapse under their weight.

After offering their donations, the visitors kowtowed to the statue of the Goddess of Mercy and drew lots. Those who had drawn lucky ones were all smiles as they left. Those who had drawn unlucky ones pulled long faces. At this moment, the resourceful "agent" of the goddess would come forward and advise them to make another donation, kowtow and draw again, until a lucky one was obtained.

The Minor Putuo was the boat's next stop. It was a small island of limestone of only 600 square metres and stood in the lake like a seal stone. It is said that this magic seal stone was placed there by the Goddess of Mercy to pacify the lake and that thereafter Lake Erhai never flooded its shores again. Climbing onto the island, I found the scenery on the small island quite exquisite.

Tea Culture of the Bai Nationality

Besides viewing the natural scenery of Lake Erhai, I had an opportunity to taste the Three Course Tea and experience the tea culture of the Bai nationality on board the tour boat.

It is the custom of the Bai people to offer three courses of tea to their guest: bitter tea in the first course, sweet tea in the second and bitter tea again in the third which leaves one with a lingering flavour. The three courses of tea had evolved from the ancient tea ceremony and are warmly welcomed by tourists.

Of the three courses of tea, I like the second course of sweet tea best. I was told that it had yogurt and honey in it. How good it would be if I could make it myself and drink it now and then? I went to the pantry and asked questions, to which the answer was "No comment." The recipe for this specially flavoured tea was a closely guarded secret.



It is a custom to pinch the bride on the face for good luck. This "bride" is afraid that someone may hurt her (by Chen Xiaowei).



Girls of the Bai nationality offer the Three Course Tea on the tour boat (by Huang Yanhong).



One may have one's photograph taken with a pretty Bai girl (by Huang Yanhong).



Elderly women taking part in the Dai festival of Cycling the Three Magic's (by Yu Jieui)



Fishing on the Xing River (by Xu Huihui)

When the tea drinkers had gathered on the second deck of the boat, pretty Bai girls ceremoniously offered them cups of tea from the trays carried by young men. After each cup of tea, there was a performance of singing and dancing, which included the well-known Straw Hat Dance and Iron Staff Dance and folk songs of the Bai people.

The last performance at the end of the tea service was a wedding ceremony of the Bai people. It was a most interesting show because the Bai people have a custom of pinching the bride on the face as a way of wishing her well.

After a number of lively songs and dances at the wedding ceremony, it was time to pinch the "bride" on the face. The master of ceremony announced that anyone amongst the tourists could pinch the "bride" on the face if he wished. The men sitting in the front row immediately rushed to the "bride" on the stage.

Butterfly Spring – A Good Place for Selling Clothes

At one o'clock in the afternoon, the boat moored at Taoyuan, the terminus of the half-day tour on the lake. Several big buses then took the tourists to Butterfly Spring.

"Dali is beautiful in March and Butterfly Spring is a good place for doing the makeup." These are the words of a folk song. As I walked into the Butterfly Spring Park, I had this song in my mind. But what I saw was a totally different picture. The several hundred-metre-long path, leading into the park was closely lined on both sides with stalls selling clothes, arts and crafts, and souvenirs. At the sight of these stalls, I was suddenly inspired to change the words of the song into: "Dali attracts many visitors and Butterfly Spring is a good place for selling clothes!"

The famous Butterfly Spring was a clear pool of water of about 80 square metres. An ancient silk tree spreads its branches like a canopy above the pool. Visitors vied with one another to have their photographs taken in front of it.

There were sets of clothes of ethnic minorities for hire. Many of the visitors, the ladies in particular, had their photographs taken in these costumes. In addition to the clothes, there were girls for "loan", too. For a small amount of money you could have your photograph taken with a pretty Bai girl. The proprietors were doing a brisk business.

The Three Pagodas

The Three Pagodas stand to the north of the city of Dali. One of them is Qianxun (Thousand Fathom) Pagoda of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and the other two which are smaller belong to the Northern Song period (960-1127). The Three Pagodas are the most famous historical sight in Dali. As they used to stand in front of Chongsheng Temple, they are also known as the Three Pagodas of Chongsheng Temple. The inscription on the screen wall in front of the pagodas had four embossed characters, meaning "Forever Pacifying Mountains and Rivers". Three of the characters came off during an earthquake 70 years ago but their outlines were later added.

Close to the Three Pagodas is Reflections Park, where people can see the Three Pagodas reflected in water. According to the local people, there used to be two lakes, known as Star Lake and Divine Lake located four kilometres away from the pagodas, where one could best see the reflections. Unfortunately because the two lakes have been filled in to develop and expand cultivated fields, one can now only see the reflections in the Lotus Flower Lake and a few small pools in the Reflections Park, which are far less picturesque.

Placed in front of the exhibition hall behind the Three Pagodas is a water-spurting basin. It was said to be a toy of the Ming emperors. After washing one's hands in the basin, if one then rubs the two handles of the basin gently, four jets of water spurt up as if the four fish designs at the bottom of the basin are jumping up and down.

Residential Houses of the Bai People in Xizhou

After hurrying here and there for a whole day, I was tired out. As I did not know the place nor anyone there, I wasted much of my energy. In the evening I called a few local photographers I knew on the telephone.



*The gate structure of a Bai residential house in Dali
(by Xu Jinyan)*



*The "Water Town of Buddhist Relics" in Dali
(by Xu Jinyan)*



This city gate of Dali was built more than 600 years ago during the Ming Dynasty (by Peng Zhen Ge).



A foreign attendant in a coffee house in the ancient city of Dali (by Xu Jinyan)

Although I had never met them before, they were very glad to help. Through the telephone, they provided me with a great deal of information as to where I should go and what I should see.

Early the following morning, I got on a bus going to Shangguan and made a special trip to Xizhou to see the residential houses of the Bai people. I got off at a fork in the road. As it was too early for the horse-drawn buses to come out, I walked the 40 minutes to the little town of Xizhou.

The local Bai people's houses were built in many different styles which were totally new to me. They had become great attractions for tourists. Each of the houses was perfectly structured. A great deal of attention was paid to the gate structures, which were built mainly in two styles known as "one drop of water" and "three drops of water". A "one

drop of water" gate is a single-eaved structure like the roof of an ordinary house. A "three drops of water" gate is far more imposing. It has multiple eaves with upturned corners. A few newly built "three drops of water" gate structures were gorgeously decorated with ornamental bricks and carved wood.

After wandering around Xizhou for two hours and I had managed to finish two rolls of film without my knowing it. But I still felt I had missed many good pictures especially the courtyards of the Yan, Dong and Yang families, which were open to visitors. Even the distinctly styled ordinary people's houses, which had not been renovated, were too many for me to see. A typical Bai people's home has a courtyard in the middle enclosed by buildings on three sides and a screen wall in front. The screen wall is usually inscribed with the character for "good luck" or "wealth". Some of the gate structures had a sign suspended under the eaves, which listed the official posts occupied by the ancestors of the family or the degrees they had won in the imperial civil examinations. It was there, of course, to glorify the family.

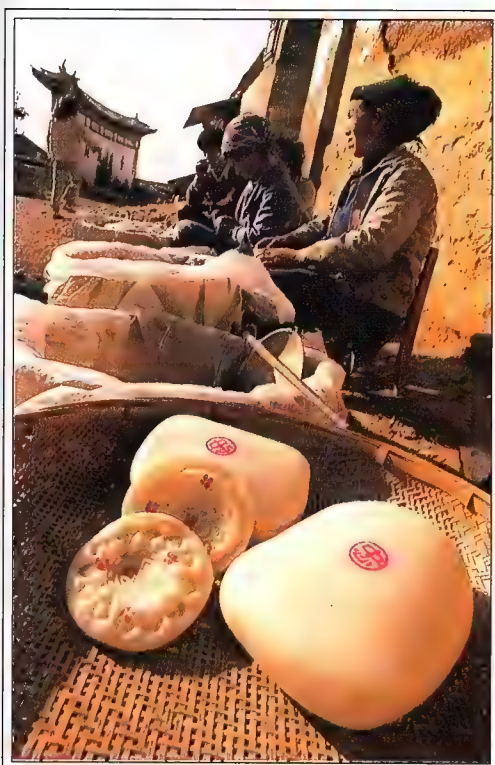
Not Knowing the Language, Cormorants Could Not Catch Fish

Shacun in Xizhou is a large fishing village on the shore of Lake Erhai. The villagers are skilled in training cormorants into fish catchers. Not long ago, five skilled cormorant fishermen were selected to receive training for the demonstration of cormorant fishing in Japan.

Greatly interested in this news, I hurriedly found my way to Shacun and then to the shore of Lake Erhai. There were many small boats on the glinting surface of the lake (I was told there were nearly 4,000 boats on the lake in all), but not a single cormorant. I asked a local man about cormorants but he could not understand me. I spoke to him in Beijing and Sichuan dialects but still to no effect. When I imitated a cormorant flapping its wings with my arms, he became even more confused.



A section of Huguo Street has been turned into "foreigners' street" (by Peng Zhen Ge).



Selling fish bait in Shangguan Village in Dali (by Xu Jinyan)



A residential house of the Bai nationality in Xizhou (by Wang Miao)

I had no choice but to walk aimlessly along the lake shore and finally came to a shoal extending from the shore into the lake. (Later I learned that the shoal was the Sea Tongue, one of the four famous shoals of Lake Erhai.) The shoal was about 1,500 metres long from the root to the tip of the "tongue" with water on three sides. There were many trees providing pleasant shade. Under the shade of the trees were many small boats, where shrimp catchers were busy with their work. In the water were many wire fish-breeding boxes.

Some tourist facilities were being built on the shoal, which would soon become another sizable tourist attraction.

"Foreigners' Street"

Dali is an ancient city. Built in 1382 during the Ming Dynasty, it has a history of more than 600 years. The streets inside the city wall were laid out in a typical chess-board pattern. The neatly arranged streets and classically styled buildings attract a countless number of Chinese and foreign tourists.

I was told that foreigners had a very good impression of Dali. Many of them, instead of following the usual routine of tourists "who look at temples in the daytime and go to sleep at night", preferred to relax, experience the local life style, ride a bicycle to a farm or a fishing village, or sit at a table in a roadside restaurant in the ancient city, simply drinking coffee and enjoying the sunlight.

This brought into existence a "foreigners' street" in Dali's Huguo Street. Concentrated in this street are several dozen establishments catering to the needs of foreign tourists, such as shops dealing in arts and crafts, curios, paintings and calligraphic works, Western-style restaurants and tourist service centres. All the signs and advertisements were in two languages: Chinese and English. Even the decorations and display were unlike the other shops in the city. From a young woman who ran a picture gallery I learned that "foreigners' street" had been in existence for quite a few years. The name was given by the local people and was not marked on any map. Most of the shop proprietors and assistants could speak a foreign language or two. I watched them for a while and found they were quite at ease in their dealings with foreigners. There were not many places in the remote areas of China like Dali with its foreign-oriented business district.

When I visited "foreigners' street", it was already past noon. Quite a few foreigners were sitting at the roadside restaurant tables, savouring the local cuisine in the warm sunlight. Some of them had even removed their shirts.

A Tourist Area Favoured by Heaven, Earth and People

After a nonstop two-day sight-seeing tour, I carried away with me a very good impression of Dali, although I had wasted some time finding my way around. Dali is one of the few tourist areas favoured by heaven, earth and people.

Dali is blessed with enchanting natural scenery. Lake Erhai alone, with its three islands, four shoals, five smaller lakes and nine bends, offers endless opportunities for sightseeing and photography.

There are many cultural relics in Dali. As many as 40 temples and other historic buildings are to be found in the city alone with more to be found outside the city.

The people of the Bai nationality have many colourful folk customs. Their clothing, ornaments, songs, dances and residential houses are unlike those of any other ethnic minority. Their traditional Third Month Festival, Circling the Three Magic's and Master's Festival often makes the tourists linger and forget to leave.

Dali is favoured by heaven because the air and water are totally unpolluted and there is plenty of lovely sunshine and it is favoured by a friendly and hospitable people, too. Dali, already a well-known tourist attraction today, will certainly see more tourists in the future.

Translated by Tang Bowen

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Enjoyment in Tiangui Mountain

*Tiangui Mountain, in typical karst topography, is magnificent, beautiful, quiet
and at the same time perilous and grotesque.*



1. The Buddha Cave, built on one of the sheer cliffs of Tiangui Mountain
2. Cangyan Palace is another scenic spot on Tiangui Mountain
3. The Green Dragon Temple
4. The bronze statue of Zhenwu inside the Green Dragon Temple was cast in the image of Emperor Chongwu, the last emperor of the Ming Dynasty.



1



2

I first visited Tiangui Mountain in Pingshan County, Hebei Province, in the summer of 1993. The rain had let up as we drove towards the foot of the mountain and we looked up to find uniquely-shaped mountain peaks towering into the blue sky and ancient temples lying high on the mountain; the rolling hills and deep ravines running into the distance created a carpet of emerald green.

MAGNIFICENT PEAKS

The Tiangui Mountain is formed by three layers of steep cliffs and the whole mountain stretches for several dozen kilometres from east to west. Between the layers of steep cliffs are flat platforms which

form natural plank roads overgrown with plants and trees. The mountain looks stunning with layers of perilous cliffs lying upon green woodland, with red rocks setting off the emerald peaks.

Having spiralled up the mountain for a while, our bus came to the top of the second layer of the steep cliffs. We left the bus and walked through lush woods and after climbing up a long narrow path of rock steps we reached the summit of the mountain. The wind blew in my face; its roar through the woods could be heard from the foot of the mountain. I felt a kind of boundless strength and beauty that cannot be described in words.

After passing the Jianhuo (Sword

Cleaving) Cliff, I reached the Wanghai (Sea Viewing) Peak. As I gazed into the distance, I could see the fishing boats dotted on the shimmering Gangnan Reservoir and Xibaipo Village, which lay indistinctly in the far distance. A vast sea of white clouds lay at my feet, the mountain peaks appearing to float on the rolling clouds.

THE GREEN DRAGON TEMPLE

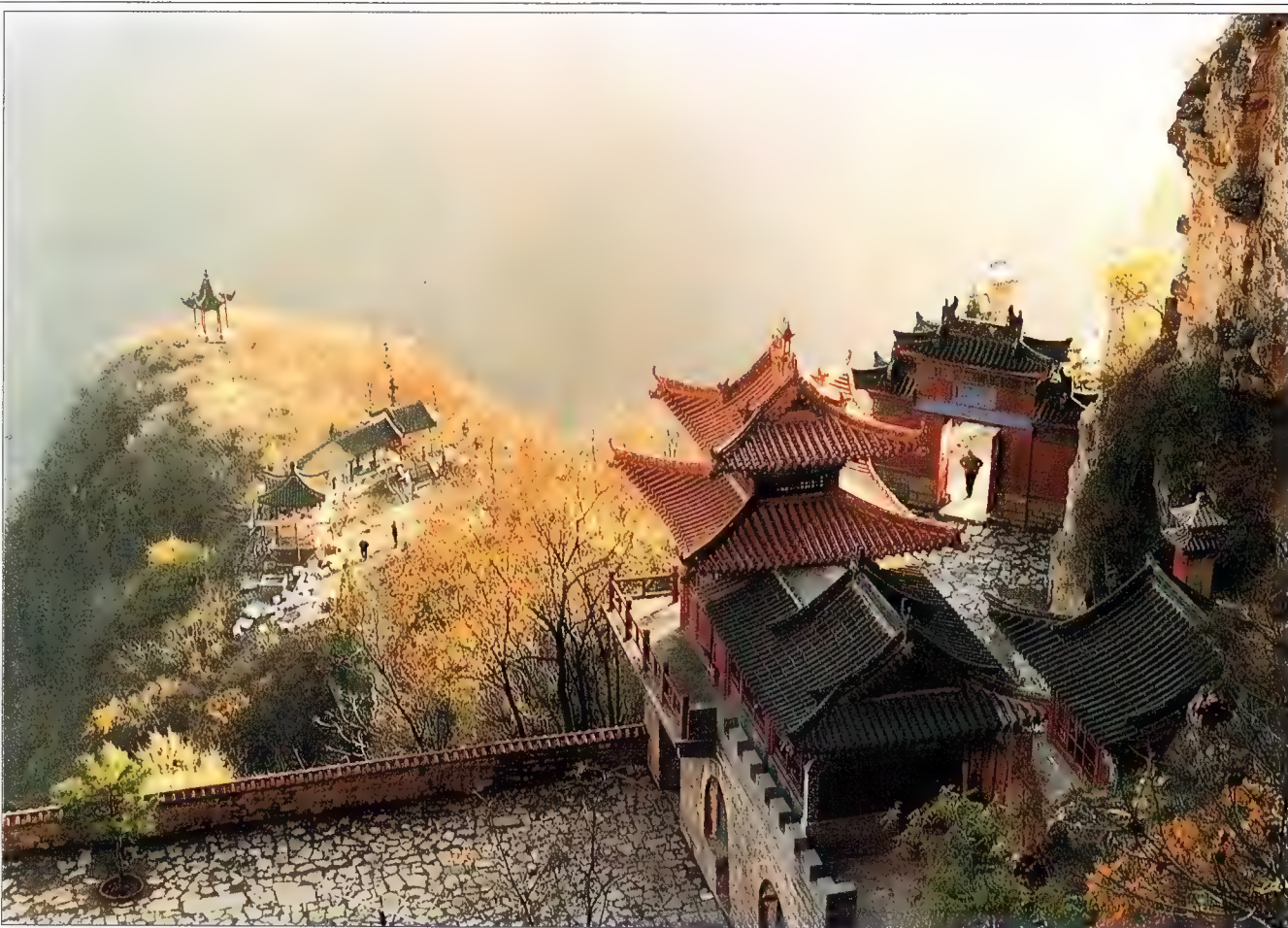
Qinlong (Green Dragon) Temple was originally built as a temporary dwelling palace in the style of an imperial garden for the last Ming-dynasty Emperor Chongzhen by Lin Zhong, his trusted eunuch. Before it was complete, Li Zicheng headed his peasant uprising army to besiege Beijing. Emperor Chongzhen who failed to flee hung himself on an ancient Chinese scholar tree on the Coal Hill. The eunuch left Beijing to become a Taoist monk and changed the temporary dwelling palace into a temple, and cast a bronze statue in the image of Emperor Chongzhen, called Zhenwu, where he worshipped it every day.

The temple lies among sheer precipices and overhanging rocks. It has gates on all four sides. The eastern gate is called the Pilgrimage Gate, the southern gate is known as the Rosefinch Gate, a pictographic gate with a 100-league deep valley outside it, while the northern gate is entitled the Jade Palace Gate meaning the gate leading up to Heaven.

The main hall of the Green Dragon Temple is where the image of Zhenwu is enshrined. On the eastern and western sides of the Zhenwu Hall are enshrined Emperor Chongzhen's most reliable civil officials and military officers. On either side of the temple's courtyard grow two ginkgo trees. The one in the east is 380 years old and more than 20 metres high with a diameter of over 20 metres. The one in the west was felled and a new one replanted. In the courtyard is a small grove of bamboo, and on the eastern side of the courtyard, under the ginkgo tree, is a pearl-like well. Interestingly the water in the well is about one foot deep and remains the same level the whole year round, it neither floods in summer nor goes dry in winter.

LIKE SHIPS IN A MILKY SEA

This spring we ascended the mountain from the stone archway at the foot of the mountain. As we reached Erdaolinguan Pavilion, it started to rain and it enveloped everything. Clouds and mist seemed to rise from the green trees and



3

rock crevices, growing thicker by the minute. We groped our way through the mist and rain and as we approached the Green Dragon Temple we glanced back to see a vast sea of rolling clouds come into sight. We had actually walked through dense milky white clouds which now filled the valleys and floated from west to east with mighty power. The mountain peaks towered over the clouds like ships advancing slowly in a billowing sea. All of a sudden, the sun came out and the sky became clear. Once the clouds and mist had dispersed, the mountain became even more beautiful.

PEACH BLOSSOM AND AUTUMN RED

In March last year I went to Tiangui Mountain again to enjoy the peach blossom. At that time there were still drifting snowflakes in the sky, and I thought to myself that the peach trees surely cannot have bloomed yet. But to my surprise, when I entered the mountain I found peach blossom everywhere. Red and white blossoms covered the slopes, valleys, villages and temples, dyeing the spring sky red. Facing this vast sea of peach blossom in full bloom, my thoughts ran wild as I imagined the bright-coloured blossom were the 400-kilometre Taihang Moun-

tains, covering the lands along the Yangtse and Yellow Rivers, permeating the Great Wall....

In September last year I travelled to the mountain once more, this time to enjoy the red leaves. Standing in the Green Dragon

Temple, I gazed towards the Cuiping Mountain opposite. The autumn scene was very enchanting. The 20-kilometre-wide autumn mountain unfolded in layers, each layer turned red so that each peak was bathed in colour. They looked like three flying red silk ribbons or a hundred Chinese paintings hung in the sky.

Within the sea of red leaves you could find smoke trees, maples, Chinese pistachios and oak. Wherever you went, red leaves smiled at you. The Tang-dynasty poet Du Mu wrote a timeless poem, two



4

lines of which ran as follows:

*Stopping my carriage, I sit down to enjoy
maple forest till dusk;*

*Frosty leaves are much redder than flowers
in March.*

But the beauty of Tiangui Mountain was far beyond what Du Mu had described.

©

*Translated by Xiong Zhenru
Photos by Yang Zhijian
Article by Shang Tang*

Trilobite Fossil Handicrafts in Shandong

PHOTOS BY WANG WENBO • TEXT BY YUAN CHENG

It is a must for the visitor who comes to Mount Taishan, the renowned tourist site in Shandong Province, to see the graceful and unique handicrafts made of trilobite fossils produced at the foot of the picturesque mountain.

The trilobite was a marine creature, which lived about 300-500 million years ago. Once the king of the sea, it became extinct. Because its body was divided into three

lobes, it was named the trilobite.

The bed of the Wenshui River and Dawenkou in Tai'an, Shandong Province, are said to be the places where most of the fossil trilobites in the world have been found. Besides, there are other places in Shandong such as Yanziya in Yiyuan County, Yanzi Mountain in Laiwen County and the counties of Feixian, Pingyi and Liangshan where trilobite fossils have also been found.

Trilobite fossil are good natural materials for handicrafts. The rock is dark-green in colour, dotted with purplish-brown spots. The trilo-

A whole piece of trilobite fossil

bites which lie in clear bas-relief are yellow; they look like swallows, or bats or dragonflies — all vivid and lifelike — hence the name the Swallow Rock or Bat Rock. The large ones are some 13 cm in diameter while the small ones only 3 cm. But large and whole fossils are rare finds.

The artisans work out a design according to the size and shape of the rock and the location of the trilobite on the rock. They try their best to set out the

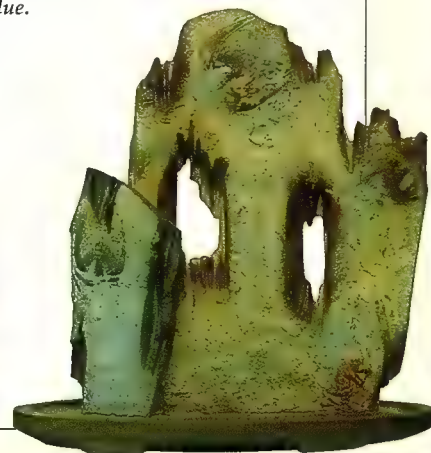
image of the trilobite and ingeniously create an artistic work which provides much room for imagination. Interesting images include flying twin-swallows, swallows frolicking in water and hanging bats. After being polished and framed, they become ornamental objects with natural flavour.

Inkslabs made of trilobite fossils are popularly

These potted landscapes are made by making advantages of the natural shape and colours of the rock and are therefore of high appreciation value.



On this ornamental object made of a whole rock of trilobite fossil there are many trilobites which resemble hovering swallows.





These Chinese ceramic tea pots inlaid with small pieces of trilobite fossil beam with an archaic and graceful air.

known as Swallow Rock inkslabs, which are one of the famous inkslabs of Shandong. The ideal materials for making inkslabs, however, are the best trilobite fossils which generally lie at the bottom stratum of the quarry. Soaked in water for centuries, the surface of the rock is smooth and as tender as jade.

The artisan makes good use of the natural shape of the rock, placing the trilobites on the edges of the inkslab, and carving the ink bed out of the space between or among the

trilobites. The uneven edges in their natural shape and the smooth and shining bed form a sharp contrast, creating a simple and natural style as well as a high value for collection.



Translated by Gu Weizhou



The dark-green Swallow Rock inkslab with a smooth bed in the shape of a tile head and with clearly visible trilobites on the edge is indeed a precious artistic work.

Wen Desheng, a farmer sculptor of Feiyuan County in Shandong Province, is carefully carving a rock with fossil trilobites.



A Lamaist Festival *on* Wutai Mountain



A grand Lamaist prayer-offering festival is held on Wutai Mountain every year during the sixth to 15th day of the sixth lunar month. Officially known as "the prayer service by imperial decree", the festival is popularly called a grand prayer service "for favourable wind and rain, and for peace and security of the country and its people" or "the sixth month festival". It is a time for lamas of the Yellow Sect of Tibetan Buddhism on Wutai Mountain to gather together. At the height of the festival on the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the sixth month, a spectacular exorcist dance known as the "devil's dance" is performed at the Buddha's Summit Temple, the leading Buddhist establishment of the Yellow Sect on Wutai Mountain in Wutai County, Shanxi Province.

FOUR-PART EXORCIST DANCE

The exorcist dance performed at the festival was introduced from Tibet, and the Tibetan Buddhists call it the "devil's dance" or "warrior's dance". The dance movements include worshipping the Buddha, reciting scriptures, giving alms, driving away evils, and subduing the devils and demons by the Great Omnipotent Warrior Attendant. The dance expresses an earnest devotion to the Buddha and Bodhisattva Manjusri, the patron

deity of Wutai Mountain, a deep understanding of Buddhist scriptures, an intense hatred for all evils and the redeeming of lost souls. In the dance, all those who took part in the suppression of Buddhism in history are condemned as trouble-making devils. The dance is, therefore, also called "devil-fighting dance". The four parts of the dance are: dancing devils, subduing the devils, driv-

ing away and redeeming the souls of the devils and killing the devils.

GREAT ALMS GIVER — THE MAIN SACRIFICIAL OBJECT

After 10 o'clock in the morning, the Hall of the Great Buddha at the temple is decorated with scriptural and other pennants, burning red candles and in-





3



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1. A group "devil's dance" is performed before sending off the Great Alms Giver.
2. The Great Alms Giver carried by lamas took a short cut downhill.
3. White-masked boys sprinkling "auspicious flour" on the spectators
4. The Great Alms Giver is enveloped by flames.

cense. In addition to the three Buddhas representing the past, present and future, there are three small gilded bronze statues wearing conical hats and draped with hata scarves on the altar. The one in the middle is a likeness of Tsongkhapa, the founding master of Lamaism on Wutai Mountain. In a triangular tray on the eastern side of the altar is a very unusual statuette. This fire-spitting figure has a head as withered as a skull, a neck as thin as a stick and a body made up of three leaping flames. It carries a black umbrella and has blue and white hata scarves tied around its neck. All kinds of offerings are piled around it. The lamas call this frightful-looking figure the Great Alms Giver and is one of the main sacrificial objects at the festival.

The lamas gathered in the main hall for the third round of scripture reading. Dressed in Tibetan cassocks, they sat next to each other at the rows of long scriptural tables painted red.

When it was nearly noon, we were taken to the temple's kitchen yard for lunch. After lunch the lamas returned one after another to the main hall for the last scripture reading before the exorcist dance.

SALUTE BY PROSTRATION

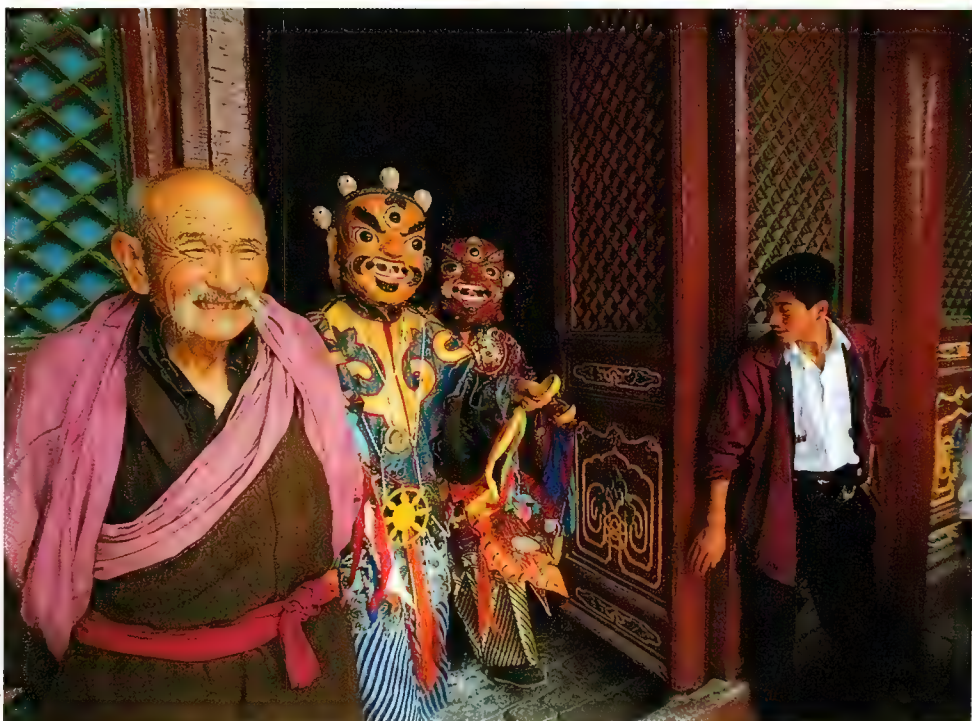
Presently, about a dozen lamas wearing goose-head-shaped hats walked to a small courtyard to usher the leading lama to the main hall for scripture reading. After sitting himself down on the yellow-satin cushion in front of the altar in the main hall, he requested all worshippers and lay Buddhists to withdraw from the hall and the door and all the windows closed. In the dim light, the mystic atmosphere inside the hall heightened. The Great Alms Giver was moved close to the door to face the altar.

A lamaist priest about 50 years old chanted scriptures, then knelt in front of the Great Alms Giver. Assisted by the abbot, he turned over each of the three decorated porcelain plates, which had been placed face down on the altar. He then placed triangular sacrificial cakes in each of them and poured some water over them from a copper pot. After this, he covered his nose with a white hata scarf, chanted scriptures for a while, then poured the sacrificial cakes and water into the Great Alms Giver's tray. This was repeated several times until the tray was

full. The porcelain plates were then once again turned face down and several more blue and white short hata scarves were tied to the Great Alms Giver.

This was followed by a long scripture chanting session, at the end of which the lamas removed the food offerings from the altar and turned the Great Alms Giver around to face the door. After another chanting of scriptures, the door

of the hall was opened. Heralded by lamas carrying burning incense and accompanied by an orchestra of drums and trumpets, the lamas carried the Great Alms Giver out of the hall, made a complete circle around the hall and came to the Hall of Bodhisattva Manjusri, where several thousand believers, worshippers and tourists were waiting. As they cheered, many of them began to



bend down on their knees in front of the leading lama begging for blessing. The Mongolian and Tibetan believers, in particular, saluted by prostrating on the ground. At this point, many more people began to rush to the temple courtyard and the place was seething with excitement.

At two o'clock in the afternoon, everything was ready, with a wave of his

hand, the abbot signalled the commencement of the exorcist dance of the Lamaist festival at the Buddha's Summit Temple. Amidst the popping of firecrackers and the chanting of scriptures, several dozen masked lamas in exotic clothes of all colours began to file out one by one, masquerading as the Twelve Bodhisattvas, Four Heavenly Kings and Eight Warrior Attendants. As they jumped their way

forward in a zigzag line, they performed the wondrous exorcist dance. As the spectators watched with great interest, they moved slowly forward, crowding the performers. At this moment, four boys wearing masks and dressed in white, suddenly sallied out of the Eastern Hall. As they ran forward, they sprinkled white flour on the spectators from a cloth bag they each carried. Any spectator sprinkled with this "auspicious flour" was considered very lucky.

THE LAW-UPHOLDING DIVINE DEER

When it was time to kill the devil, a character known as the Law-Upholding Divine Deer came into the arena. After kneeling down at the centre of the arena, he recited scriptures and raised his spade-like weapon as if he was going to bring it down on a triangular wooden box covered with a black cloth. A young lama masquerading as Bodhisattva Manjusri now walked into the arena in dignified steps. Led by a boy prayer one he moved repeatedly from the arena to the altar in dance steps while picking up one religious musical instrument after another from the altar and dance to the chanting of scriptures to indicate their conversion. Finally, the black wooden box was again placed in front of the altar. The lid was opened to reveal a figurine made of oat dough which represented the "devil king". After another session of scripture chanting, the "devil king" was smashed by the Law-Upholding Divine Deer with his spade-like weapon, and the crumbs were scattered. The music and dance in the arena then became lively and joyous to symbolize the successful defence of the Buddhist law.

At the end of the exorcist dance, the Great Alms Giver was moved to level ground outside the rear gate of the tem-



1. Lamas reciting scriptures at the prayer ceremony while the orchestra plays a vigorous and forceful tune of the Yellow Sect of Tibetan Buddhism.

2. Lama and deities

3. The deities make their entrance.

1. Young lama helps the leading lama to dress.

2. A long line of worshippers (by Du Dianwen)




ple and positioned to face north. After alms and water were distributed to the believers, a ceremony to redeem the souls was performed. The believers then began to kneel down in front of the Great Alms Giver in a single line several hundred metres long. The Great Alms Giver actually represents the enemy of Buddhism. The Buddhist followers believe that when the lamas carry the figure past over their heads, it will carry away evil influence from them. This evil influence is then burned together with the figure, and the believers will be freed from disasters.

EXORCIST PERFORMANCE AT LUOHOU TEMPLE

After the exorcist dance at the Buddha's Summit Temple in which the "devil king" is killed on the 14th day, the performers come to Luohou Temple to give another performance on the 15th day. The exorcist dancers were heralded by several dozen men carrying ceremonial weapons together with the statues of Bodhisattvas Manjusri and Maitreya and followed by a Buddhist orchestra and lamas masquerading as various characters chanting scriptures. Zesak, the leading lama, dressed in a robe bestowed by a previous emperor, rode in a sedan-chair carried by eight people. Two lamas car-

rying the temple's seals followed on tall horses. The entire troupe numbered 400-500 men.

At the sound of distant drums, the abbot of Luohou Temple immediately came out with the other lamas in the temple to welcome the exorcist dancers, who marched single file into the temple. The exorcist dancers, dressed as the day before, carried several orange-coloured triangular flags. Two sedan-chairs were in the procession, one carrying the leading dancer and the other statues of Bodhisattva Manjusri and Tsongkhapa, the founder of lamaism on the Wutai Mountains. As the day was quite warm, the lamas in their elaborate costumes perspired profusely. As soon as they were in the temple hall, they removed their costumes to cool off and were served some refreshments whilst they took a short rest.

The exorcist dance performed at Luohou Temple was far smaller in scale than the one the day before. The whole performance lasted less than an hour. After the performance, the dancers filed out of the temple and held a parade on the town's main street before returning to the Buddha's Summit Temple. 

*Translated by Tang Bowen
Photos & Article by Shan Xiaogang*





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Treasures from Ancient

PHOTOS BY YANG ZHIJIAN • TEXT BY ZHANG ZIYING

A rider figurine, about 30 centimetres high, wearing a helmet, armour and leg wrappings, his horse sporting a set of head gear. He is about to venture into battle.



This tomb-guarding animal figurine was unearthed from the tomb of Gao Run of the Northern Qi in Donghuaishu Village of Cixian County. With three tufts of hair and a halberd on its back it is used to dispel evil spirits and guard the tomb.



An array of pottery figurines unearthed from a tomb of the Eastern Wei

From a cultural and historical viewpoint ancient tombs and funerary objects are perhaps one of the most popular spots to be visited by travellers. This is because articles buried underground are more authentic than those found on the ground. Moreover, not eroded by air or sunlight they can provide better information about politics, economy, customs and habits, artistic styles as well as scientific evidence of the society of that time. Most of the ancient relics displayed in museums were excavated from ancient tombs.

It is said that China began to form the custom of burying the living with the dead from primeval times. Generally the dead person's wife or concubines, servants or slaves, were buried alive with their deceased master. Later, articles replaced living people. The articles included gold, silver, precious stones, or other valuables, playthings, paintings and calligraphy as well as large numbers of daily utensils including clothes and ornaments. Over the course of time the development of society funerary objects became richer and richer.

In Cixian County, Hebei Province there is a group of 130 tombs of the Northern Dynasties (386-581) scattered densely around several villages. Their outer appearance looks like large earth mounds. People used to know them as the "72 deceptive tombs of Cao Cao" built during the period of Three Kingdoms (220-280) in order to mislead grave robbers. Not until more than 3,000 funerary objects were unearthed from 13 of the tombs that a mystery was revealed. After examining

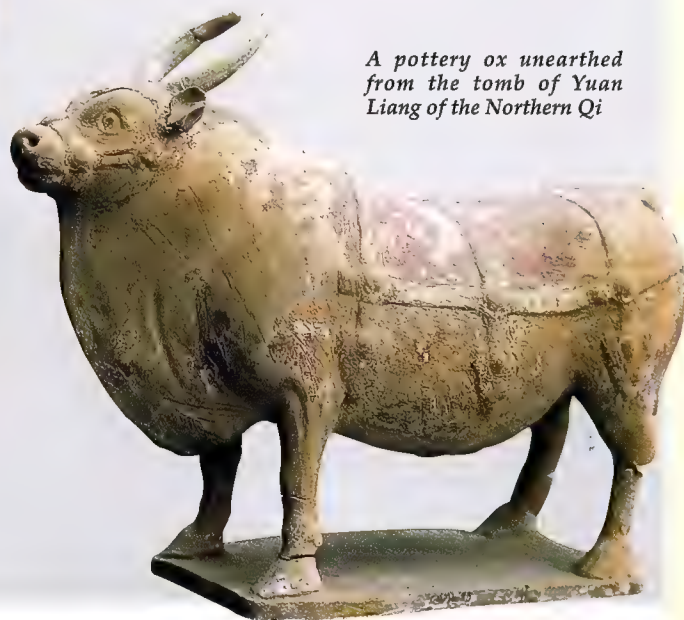
Tombs of Northern Dynasties



Carrying a travelling bag this graceful pottery camel, unearthed from the tomb of Princess Ru Ru of the Eastern Wei, is ready to start a journey.



Maid figurines each carrying a pair of boots were excavated from the tomb of Lady Rao of the Northern Dynasties in Dongcheng Village of Cixian County.



A pottery ox unearthed from the tomb of Yuan Liang of the Northern Qi

these objects and completing textual research, archaeologists have found that the Eastern Wei and Northern Qi of the Northern Dynasties successively built their capitals at Yecheng (in present-day Linzhang County of Hebei Province) and chose the neighbouring Cixian County as their imperial graveyard. Studies prove that the excavated relics are from the tombs of Emperor Shenwu named Gao Huan, Emperor Wenxiang named Gao Cheng, Emperor Wenxuan named Gao Yang, Emperor Xiaojing named Yuanshanjian and the imperial family members Gao Run, Yuan Jingzhi, Gao Shu and others. Such is the historical value of unearthed funerary objects.

They comprise a rich variety of objects. Amongst the pottery figurines found there are warriors, riders' attendants, drummers, civil officials, maids, dancers and others. They form a grand army of guards of honour depicting the tomb owners taking an outing. They paint a vivid picture of the social customs of that time. The sculptured pottery figurines were of a fairly high standard representing the level of artistic style of the Northern Wei.

Murals of Northern Qi were unearthed for the first time. The most well-preserved mural depicts a dying master with two groups of grieving men and women attending to him. Everything from the men's clothing, belts, perfume satchels and swords down to the women's hair-styles and long skirts were uniquely drawn. There are also murals depicting daily life. The strokes and the colours were superbly executed. Besides admiring their artistic value one can well image the social customs of that time.

Translated by Anne Yan



A warrior figurine, over 40 centimetres high, wearing a gilded helmet and shining armour. With his left hand holding a shield and his right hand in a tight fist he looks ferocious.



A Visit to Fujian's Greater Yushan Islet

The greater Yushan Islet is located off the northeasternmost coast of Fujian Province, near the town of Qinyu in Fuding County. To get there, I boarded a ferry from Qinyu, simply known as the "fishermen's boat", which shuttles between the Greater Yushan Islet and the town. The boat sets sail whenever it is full, providing a convenient means of transport for the local people. To my surprise, I found that the people on the ferry all spoke different dialects — some spoke Fujianese, some the Zhejiang dialect, plus other dialects from around Fujian. Living on the islet now, they have migrated here from various parts of China.

A Crater-Shaped Hilltop

After a two-hour ferry ride, the outline of the Greater Yushan Islet came into sight. Now touted as a new tourist

attraction, the islet's most prominent feature is a mountain with a U-shaped top, which when viewed from a distance resembles a crater.

The Greater Yushan Islet, Yuanyang (Mandarin Duck) Islet to the east and the Lesser Yushan Islet to the west are jointly known as the Fuyao Archipelago, a communications hub for ships going to Shanghai, Fuzhou and Keelung and the Penghu Islands in Taiwan. We disembarked at a port near Mazu Village, which was gently shrouded in the shade of trees.

The following morning, a 30-minute boat voyage brought us to Yujiao Village, where one can easily climb up the rocky slopes to the top of the islet. We had to be careful as we walked along the path leading to the summit, as there were fishing nets spread every-

where, put out to dry by the local fishermen.

Temples, Pastures and Heavenly Lakes

Every village on the islet has its own temple dedicated to Mazu, Goddess of the Sea, where people pray for the safety of their people as they ply the ocean waters. The temples, although not large, attract a great number of worshippers. As a result, business in shops selling candles and incense is always brisk. It is said that at New Year's and on festivals, the villagers perform their own Dragon Dance and Lion Dance, offering much-needed entertainment on this tiny island.

After crossing the 400-metre-high summit, we came to an open grassland with thousands of cattle and sheep wandering about. Strangely, not a single



herdsman could be seen, and we suddenly felt as if we were transported to a remote pasture in northern China. The scene was so beautiful that we felt compelled to wade like children through the knee-deep grasses.

Looking down from the edge of the U-shaped hilltop, we could see two lakes lying side by side, known as to the locals as the "Heavenly Lakes". The total area of the two lakes is over 2,000 square metres. According to records, an artesian spring bubbles up continuously from the lake beds. It is no surprise, then, that the Greater Yushan Islet has been famed ever since the Northern and Southern Song Dynasties (960-1279) for its abundant fresh water.

Abundant Fresh Water

The excess water from the lakes is diverted to a mountain stream which forms a swift waterfall 20 metres high and six metres wide, providing hydraulic electric power for the five fishing villages on the islet.

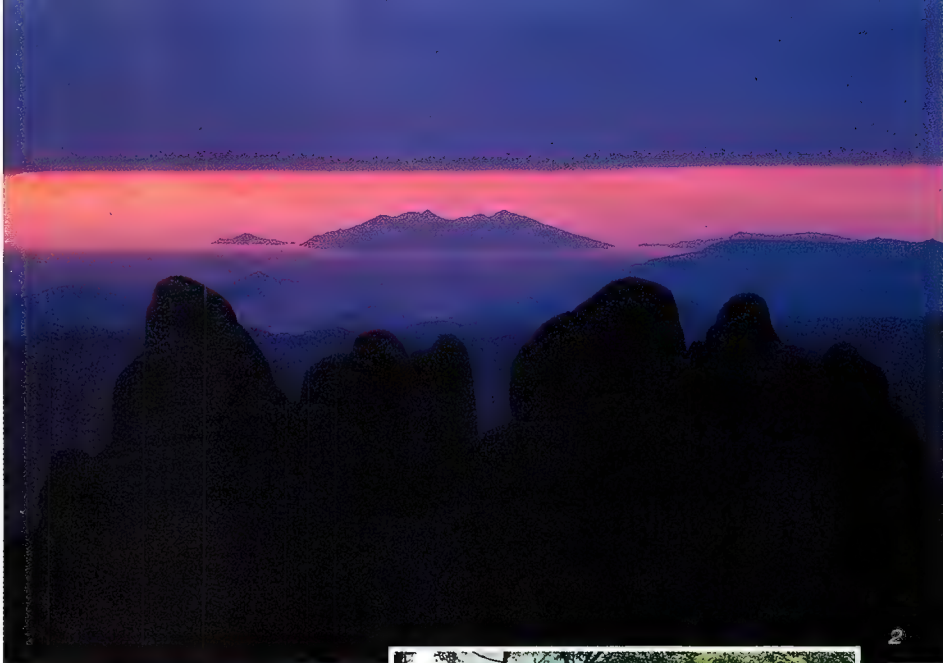
The water from the waterfall flows down to the beach after reaching the foot of the hill, where it carves out strips on the even sandy beach. Viewed from a distance, the wet grains of sand glittering in the sunlight resemble a pattern created by man, not nature. Scored by the ever-flowing water, some of the strips gradually turn into deep ditches. Emulating the villagers, we also washed ourselves in one of the ditches after a swim in the sea.

With such a wealth of fresh water, the islet residents have no trouble keeping everything clean. They often can be seen moving their furniture and fishing gear into the yard for a good cleaning, and every day they wash away the smell of seafood from the area in front of their houses with fresh water.

Hospitality seems to be inherent in the nature of people here. I was invited to one of their homes and drank wine with the hosts from a large bowl. They are indeed great drinkers, so it is no wonder that I found piles of wine bottles everywhere on the islet.

The local girls are simple and poised, with a charm all of their own. Pampered daughters of their parents, most of them are exempt from jobs related to fishing, but are urged to have as much schooling as possible. A young man told me that in the past one could take a beautiful girl as his wife as long as he had money. Nowadays, of course, it is no longer possible to buy a pretty girl's heart merely by means of money. In this sense, times have certainly changed, however the peaceful life of these island people remains much the same as it did decades ago.

Translated by K.V. Ku
Photos & Text by Chen Zhengming



1. "Ditches" are formed on the beach as the fresh spring water flows down from the "Heavenly Lakes".

2. A view of the Greater Yushan Islet from the top of Tailao mountain

3. Lion Dances are performed during

festivals on the islet. Many families have a "lion" above the door of their homes.

4. Sunning their fishing nets on paths before and after the fishing seasons is a custom of the islet residents.

5. Every village on the islet has a small Mazu Temple. Large red candles are the fishermen's usual offering to the goddess.

The Fertile Soil of Folk Art



Country women in the Central Shaanxi often use leftover scraps of cloth to make various toys for children. Today, these toys have become pieces of art at tourist attractions (by Chan Yat Nin).

Travelling over the 400-kilometre vast flat land in central Shaanxi or on the Loess Plateau in northern Shaanxi, you will be drawn to the uniquely-shaped and brightly-coloured folk arts and crafts. For general travellers it is hard to imagine that these common people living a simple, frugal life farming on this land of yellow earth could produce such a great variety of folk arts.

Typical of the region, these folk arts and crafts are both varied and imaginative. If they were to be classified by their function, they are a mixture of auspicious objects, keepsakes, toys, ornaments, souvenirs, sacrificial offerings, articles for daily use, etc. Spring Festival in the countryside provides a good opportunity for

these folk arts and crafts to materialize. Vendor's stalls selling various objects and ornaments fill the streets at country fairs. Every household is decorated with door gods on gates, papercuts on windows and New Year pictures on walls, and sacrificial offerings are placed on altars for gods and ancestors.... Everywhere is a riot of colour enhancing the peaceful atmosphere bidding farewell to the old year and welcoming the new.

Fengxiang in western Shaanxi can be called the home of these folk arts and crafts, where clay sculptures, dough models, patchworks, wood-block printed New Year pictures, papercuts, embroideries and straw articles have a distinctive local feature. Among these the most eye-catch-

ing is the clay sculptured "Tiger Face", a kind of wall hanging. The "Tiger Face" is divided into two different aspects: sketch and bold colour. The tiger's nose, eyes, eyebrows, mouth and ears are designed entirely by borrowing the patterns of deformed plants and flowers. Small "Tiger Faces" are so small that they can be placed in the palm of a hand, while the big ones are so large they have a diameter of over one metre. Originally, "Tiger Face" clay sculptures were traditional objects used by farmers to suppress evil demons in their homes, but today they have become works of art that both Chinese and foreign tourists are fond of.

Primitively simple, Fengxiang's wood-block printed New Year pictures have an



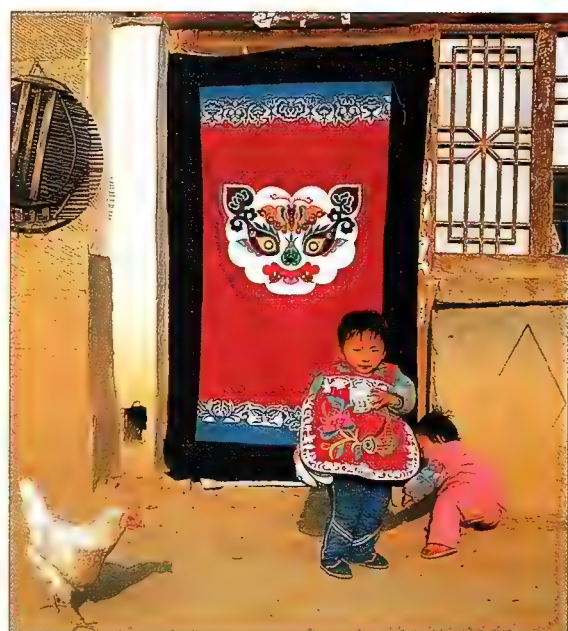
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1. "Wool embroidery" or "gunny embroidery", is made by embroidering different patterns on gunny cloth with colourful knitting wool. This work entitled "A Boy Catching Chickens" is part of a collection in the Luochuan Folklore Museum (by Yang Limin).

2. Dough modelling, popularly known as "floral steamed bread", is used to make presents by farmers in most parts of Shaanxi or sacrificial offerings at the Spring Festival, or for great occasions such as weddings, birthdays, and funerals (by Hu Wugong).

3. Most of Ansai farmer paintings take themes from northern Shaanxi folk songs (by Shi Bao Xiu).

4. Yanchuan's cloth patchwork is a new kind of folk art derived from the patterns that country women used when mending their children's clothes (by Shi Bao Xiu).

5. Most of Ansai papercuts are brought to life by housewives' hands. Take a piece of red paper and cut it quickly without a draft or much thinking, in three or five minutes a unique "avant-garde" work is created (by Tai Chi Yin).



5



1. Bull fight – a clay toy from Fengxiang
(by Chan Yat Nin)
2. The “Tiger Face” and clay toys made in farmers’ households in Fengxiang are bright in colour, uniquely shaped, and are particularly liked by Western tourists
(by Hou Dengke).
3. Fengxiang wood-block printed New Year pictures have a long history. Their production technique represents the ancient art of colour printing
(by Chan Yat Nin).
4. Wooden ladles painted with faces found in traditional opera – a new variety of art
(by Chan Yat Nin)
5. The tiger-head pillow and tiger-head cap are embroidered by the clever hands of the child’s mother
(by Chan Yat Nin).
6. The colour and shape of Huxian farmer paintings have a strong decorative flavour
(by Xu Zhuo).



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entirely different style from those found in Yangliuqing in Tianjin and Taohuawu in Jiangsu. In Fengxiang today some folk artists still keep the wood blocks from the Ming and Qing dynasties in their homes. When Spring Festival arrives each year, all farmers put up New Year pictures with images of different gods or scenes from ancient dramas on their front gates, in halls, on the shrines for ancestral tablets and the walls around the brick bed. It seems to these farmers that the Spring Festival would lose its lustre without these traditional pictures.

Fengxiang's straw articles, embroidered pouches and window papercuts are also very favoured. Made by folk women

with their clever hands, these arts and crafts can be found at many tourist spots in Xi'an and central Shaanxi. No wonder the folk rhymes speak of "The East Lake's willows, Xifeng's wine and girls' hands" as being the three wonders of Fengxiang.

Ansai in the hinterland on the Loess Plateau in northern Shaanxi is famous both in China and abroad not only for its waist drums but also for its popular folk arts and crafts such as papercuts, farmer paintings and clay sculptures. Ansai papercuts, for example, are extremely well known because each papercut is an interesting adaptation of folk songs in northern Shaanxi. Farmer paintings also take themes from folk songs, but clay fig-

ures are created with a plot. Most of the clay sculptures are unpainted. Ansai's folk arts and crafts have a rough, simple and absurd style with a surrealistic, imaginative power and so they are called "the vanguard art from the yellow earth caves" by Western artists who toured this area.

Equally famous are Huxian's strongly decorative farmer paintings, Yanchuan's brightly-coloured and fantastically-shaped patchwork and Weinan's exquisitely-made colourful steamed bread....

Translated by Xiong Zhenru
Text by Shi Bao Xiu



A Hazardous Adventure



into China's

EXPLORING THE J

A view from the Fox Mountain: The forest of azalea trees in the Black Bamboo Gully is ethereally enshrouded in morning fog.

*It is the time of the year when spring gives way to summer, yet explorers of the Black
Bamboo Gully have to trudge through snow more than one metre deep.*

"Bermuda"

GLE IN BLACK BAMBOO GULLY



Sichuan Province is a fabled "Land of Abundance", but few people know anything about its savage side ... home to the jungle-covered Heizhu (Black Bamboo) Gully. It is China's equivalent of the Bermuda Triangle.

The gully, situated 113 kilometres to the southwest of the picturesque Mount Emei, covers an area of approximately 185 square kilometres in a zone which spans the Sichuan Basin and Western Sichuan Plateau. The terrain is a jumble of mountains with zigzagging brooks and arcane nooks. There is a broody and melancholic atmosphere about the place, rain is plentiful and mists are perpetual. Human habitation is a rarity. The unique topography, complex natural conditions and primitive ecology make it an indescribable mixture of beautiful and savage landscape. Reports of unexplained disappearances of men and domestic animals, coupled with the local Yi people's bewitching mythology and land worship, have enshrouded the Black Bamboo Gully in mystery.

Prior to our expedition four other exploration teams ventured into the gully, but, having gone through all kinds of hardships, none have made it to the Shimen Pass, the hinterland of the gully. In 1994 our team made two exploratory expeditions to this mysterious land. The first took place during the period from August 24 to September 1, and the second from January 3 to 9.

ENCHANTING SCENERY

The entrance to the Black Bamboo Gully is a four-square-kilometre valley hemmed in by steep, heavily wooded mountains 1,750 metres above sea level. The left side of the valley, covered by dense bushes and "arrow bamboo" (*Sinarundinaria nitida*), is said to be where giant pandas frolic and mate with each other. A tiny looking hill, breathtakingly picturesque, protrudes from the upper end of the valley like the spine of

1. Charred trees after a wild fire in the depths of the Black Bamboo Gully
2. Winter pine trees stiff with frost glisten on top of Fox Mountain.
3. A tree, struck dead by lightning 1,000 years ago, greets the sunrise with outstretched arms.
4. From a distance, Wawu Mountain looks like a flat-topped farmer house

a carp. The Sancha River, which forms the bottom of the main part of the Black Bamboo Gully, rises in the northeast side of the Ma'anshan Mountain and tumbles down the 1,054-metre-high valley mouth of Sihezhen within a short distance of 10 kilometres. The resultant 3,200-metre drop in elevation is the reason for the astonishing turbulence of the foaming rapids. On a cloudy day the place is swept by cold wind and the vision obscured by thickening fog, and nobody dare venture an inch further down the mouth of the gully.

GIANT AZALEAS

Driving up a highway through the woods to a place 2,000-2,800 metres above sea level, we saw a forest of primitive broadleaf trees and a forest belt composed of dove trees, *Tetracentron sinense* and *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*, all rare strains under strict State protection. Under the trees the ground is covered by "arrow bamboo", azaleas and a rich variety of mountain delicacies and wild vegetables.

Having crossed the forest of dove trees to a place 2,700-3,000 metres above sea level and climbed over a tiny mountain in a timberland, we found ourselves in the midst of a cluster of primitive trees.

In this jungle at 2,950 metres above sea level, we saw huge trunks of China fir trees entwined by wild plants. The entire mountain slope is covered with azalea trees, which stand eight metres tall on trunks 15 centimetres thick and whose branches are coated with downy green moss. As we strolled through the trees we were overwhelmed by the scene of tranquility and primitive simplicity, which was somehow tinged with a touch of fear.

At 2:30 p.m., we climbed up the Ronghongde Grassy Marshland in the centre of a mountain ridge 3,150 metres above sea level. The marshland occupies an area of 33 hectares. Covered by a mane of grass 6-10 centimetres thick, it is suggestive of a well-manicured golf course consisting of two large ponds and a dozen smaller funnels. Water gushes out of the large pond in the centre of the marshland which, from a geological point of view, is a unique example of karst landform. The marshland is surrounded by three belts of plants with one-metre-tall wild strawberry and other plants forming the inner belt.



NATURE'S LABYRINTH

We plunged into the legendary section of the gully called "Devil Turning the Millstone". On our way we repeatedly saw giant panda dung and heard animals roaming about in the forests. Our guides, who were Yi hunters, told us not to talk loudly lest the God of Mountains be disturbed and suggested we did not stray too far from each other. Nature's Labyrinth, he warned, was close ahead.

Having struggled over three mountain ridges in the rain, we finally entered Nature's Labyrinth, or "Devil Turning the Millstone". At an altitude of 3,480 metres it takes the shape of a sharp-edged glacier, with perpendicular rock faces on both sides riddled with funnels, sink holes and vertical shafts. Its flat, sloping ridge is covered by a maze of road intersections looking so alike as to be utterly misleading to the wayfarer.

Legend has it that a kind of grass growing in the dense forest can lead people astray. In the sun it releases a delicate scent which can be smelled within a hundred metres; it also emits colourful rays to attract flying birds and animals. When humans set foot on it, they are so in toxicated that they can only run around in circles and they have no hope of ever leaving the place. The Yis call it "magic grass".

When I woke up early the next morning I looked out of my tent and saw a still moonlit, star-spangled sky, which meant it was going to be a fine day. At eight in the evening, we arrived at our destination, Camping Ground One, 3,310 metres above sea level. A makeshift shed had already been fashioned out of wooden blocks, which were loosely fitted so that the wind blew through. We slept shoulder to shoulder in the shed to keep



warm. Yi hunters took turns sitting beside a bonfire watching for beasts.

SPECTACULAR SIGHT

For two days it continued to drizzle and the camping ground was shrouded in a dense fog, making it impossible to survey the area or take photographs. The rain showed no sign of ceasing by the third day either. Hard pressed for time, we had no alternative but to move ahead in the rain at an altitude of between 3,200 and 3,600 metres. We bypassed "Devil Turning the Millstone", inched past the Cuckoo's Cliff and the sheer cliff of Ji'er sheluo by way of a perilous narrow footpath and entered Camping Ground Two at Fox's Terrace. Several assaults of heavy rain and hailstones along the way brought cold, hunger and fatigue to bear on every member of our team and nobody had the desire to enjoy the scenery. That night, our experienced Yi guides suggested that we offer libations to Heaven to pray for a fine day tomorrow. They believed that the unending rain had been caused by our violation of taboos when we entered the mountains.

Turning my head and looking around, I was taken aback to see a golden pyramid glistening in the distance.

In fact, the pyramid is a mountain on the eastern side of the main peak of the Ma'an shan Mountain. At an elevation of 3,998 metres, it has a triangular prism-shaped peak which closely resembles the Pyramids of ancient Egypt. Under the morning sun the pyramid constantly changed colour from brown to light yellow to pinkish yellow to golden, until its original colour shone through. The pyramid is surrounded by a vast expanse of azalea trees. On a bright, fine day when the surrounding flowers are in full bloom, the pyramid looks like a veritable golden mountain.

Apart from its high scientific and scenic value, the pyramid offers an encapsulating view of the surrounding terrain. It enables one to take in everything close at hand at a mere glance. One may also stretch their eye to the horizon – the Black Bamboo Gully lies under a vast sea of clouds which drift in the rising sun, and the roofed-terraces on the Golden Peak of Mount Emei and the silvery mantle of the Gonggar Mountain are hidden behind an etherealized curtain of mist.

WHERE YIN MEETS YANG

We climbed up a 4,150-metre-high peak which serves as the boundary between Ebian Yi Autonomous County and Ganluo County, Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture. Looking ahead we spied the land of Ganluo County under the bright sun. A wisp of white cloud drifted slowly over the mountain ridge. To the east, the Black Bamboo Gully was engulfed by thickening fog, with blackish clouds rolling in the heavens. When the clouds drew near the mountain ridge, it failed to scale the top and move on; instead they stopped there and kept rolling up and down on the eastern side of the mountain, as if an invisible wall had been thrown in its way. Thus the mountain ridge divided the sky into two worlds, the western world, brightly lit and the eastern world, looking gloomy and oppressive. Our Yi guides commented that the Black Bamboo Gully was a land of gold mountains and silver land that even the clouds and fogs were reluctant to leave. After a discussion we decided to name the place "Yinyangjie", or "Boundary Between Yin and Yang".

Pressing north, we reached the main peak of the Ma'an shan Mountains. At a height of 4,288 metres, it is the tallest mountain in Leshan County and on the southwestern rim of the Sichuan Basin. The peak, which soars into the clouds in

magnificent proportions, is barren, while its middle is covered by all sorts of plants. The surroundings are a forest of overhanging cliffs and grotesque-looking boulders. In the well-known Stone Forest, the rocks each assume the vivid image of certain animals. We wanted to visit the Boating Lake, but we could not find the way even with the aid of a map. Physically spent, we decided to return to our camping ground along a route that conducted us around the outer circle of the mountains. On our way we were surprised to see another of nature's wonders. On a cluster of grassy marshes, we saw rare medicinal herbs such as Chinese caterpillar fungus (*Cordyceps sinensis*), fritillary (*Fritillaria thunbergii*) and *Aconitum brachypodum* everywhere. We also saw birds of prey, boars and leopards. I was about to sneak some pictures of the animals when suddenly the wind rose. Black clouds tumbled and surged forward, thunderclaps cracked the sky and in their wake came a shower of hailstones the size of thumbs. We broke into a scamper, protecting our heads with bare hands. We had scurried barely for 500 metres when the hailstones came to an abrupt stop. Sunbeams penetrated the clouds and in no time it became sunny again. Drenched from head to toe, we trudged on through forest formed by the close-knit tops of azalea trees until we reached Camping Ground Two.





HIDDEN RIVER

Two roads lay before us. One led northwest to the perilous narrow gully known as Shimen Pass by way of the fabled Stone Forest, 1,000-year-old sparkling magic fungus (*Ganoderma lucidum*), Giant Crystal, Three-Arrow Holy Spring, Shimen Waterfall and the Ancestral Tombs of the Yi; this route might also enable us to effectively probe into the secret of the miraculous disappearance of men and animals in the past. The other road led southwest back to the county seat by way of Lewu Township, where we could take a rest and consider our next step.

The decision was made for us to swing south. In no time we entered what the Yi people call the "Celestial Being's Paradise". It is actually a world of azalea flowers. There are more than 30 strains of azaleas here, with the blossoming period lasting from April through to August. The trees are everywhere, growing down gullies and up the mountain slopes. Even the mountain ridge, 4,000 metres above sea level, is covered with azalea trees four to five metres tall.

It took us about one hour to thread

1. The Jinyan Hot Spring is where the local Yi people take therapeutic baths.
2. The "Stone Gate" is a nightmare for anyone who dares set foot in the Black Bamboo Gully.
3. Grotesque-looking bryophyte, growing on azalea tree branches



our way through the ocean of azaleas. Then we entered a forest of fir, azaleas, "arrow bamboo" and lichen. The ground was covered with round pebbles clothed in soft lichen; the walk on it took a lot of swaggering to keep balance and proved to be a most fascinating experience. Suddenly there came a sound which resembled an orchestra in action. Someone screamed and then fell. We hurried over to our companion and, with everybody lending a hand, pulled him up. One of his legs was dripping wet. We pried open one of the seams between the pebbles and were stunned to discover that we were actually walking on top of a hidden river. Had we come across a sink hole, we would have all been finished.

HINTERLAND OF THE GULLY

On November 5, day had just broken when we left Camping Ground One on a west-bound expedition. Apart from the four Yi guides who led the way, all we had was an age-old aerial survey chart

which provided at best a fuzzy idea about the local topography. Having swung along the ridge of the Boar Hill for more than two hours, we entered the turf of giant pandas. During our hour-long trek through the "arrow bamboo" groves, we discovered giant panda dung in four places. The dung contained undigested bamboo blades. Then we plunged into a narrow ditch which ran from east to west. The altitude there being 2,850 metres above sea level, we discovered to our dismay that for all our half day's back-breaking travel, we had gained a meagre height of 460 metres.

We took a rest in the tiny canyon, where the fog was so thick we had trouble ascertaining directions. At a height of 2,470 metres, this is where two rivers crossed. To our left the river foamed and tumbled and to our right, the landscape was streaked with a string of waterfalls which crashed on the rocks and dissolved into a shower of silvery water droplets. The wind roared, the fog thickened, and it was chilly to the bone. The guides told



us that this was the most dangerous section of the Black Bamboo Gully – Shimen Pass. In all seriousness they warned us time and again not to make any noise lest the fog rise to spirit us away to God knows where. Checking the terrain with our chart, we verified that it was indeed the Shimen Pass, the confluence of two river valleys.

To forestall any unforeseen mishap, we decided to cross the ancient river which ran behind a curtain of waterfalls. Despite the rapid flow and zero water temperature in this 10-metre-wide river, we had no choice but to wade through the river – for safety's sake. We gritted our teeth and stepping on the slippery pebbles that formed the river bed, took slow strides forward. By the time we made it to the other side, everyone's teeth were chattering and our trousers were dripping wet. Moving forward with numbed legs towards the source of the Guji River, we looked for a clearing to pitch our tents. Half an hour later, we stopped at a place 2,510 metres above sea level, where we built a bonfire and set up camp for the night.

SOURCE OF THE GUJI RIVER

Early the next morning we followed clues provided in Yi legends and embarked on the road to explore the Three-Arrow Spring, believed to be the source of the Guji River. Climbing for less than 200 metres along the Guji River, we were stopped by a huge basalt cliff. Turning back, we crossed the river by a bridge made of a single 20-centimetre-thick tree trunk.

Pressing on along the foot of a vertical cliff, we reached the legendary Three-Arrow Spring. At an altitude of 2,600 metres, spring water gushed out from the top of a mountain down to the bottom of the valley like three silvery chains hanging down from the sky. Closer they resembled strings of broken jade sparkling under the sun to form a colourful halo.

Our major task today was to obtain sample water from the spring and observe its fountainheads. Bringing with us a water pail and a length of rope, we climbed to the fountainheads 30 metres above the valley. It was chilly there, with water pouring out thunderously. There are altogether three fountainheads, situated ten metres apart, but all of them originate in the same limestone cave two metres in diameter. Four metres into the cave is a giant hall five metres tall and 20 square metres wide. By range estimation, the three fountainheads have a combined discharge of one cubic metre per second. The water tasted cool and refreshing.

NIGHT TALE OF THE SHIMEN PASS

By five o'clock, visibility reduced to an extreme low. As night fell we found ourselves at the foot of a steep basalt wall. The valley was engulfed by a swirling fog and the twilight of the sun flickered. The guides sent to explore the way forward returned to report that there was no way by which we could climb out. We thereby decided to pitch our tents right there, despite the complicated terrain and the overwhelming fog. The cliffs on both sides of the river soar up to a height of about 300 metres. The trees protruding out of the rock walls are suggestive of a variety of images – black dragons on the verge of a takeoff, or hungry tigers leaping towards their prey. Our tents were situated barely two metres from the tumbling water. We were all extremely exhausted, and had a storm occurred that night, we would have had no hope of escaping the torrential flood.

Ah Ge, the oldest of our 10 guides, told us that this was the most dreadful section of Shimen Pass. Several of his fellow villagers, he said, had lost their hunting dogs here. According to him, once a hunting dog accidentally falls into the river, it is likely to be swallowed whole by a giant amphibious animal living in

the water. Having now had first hand experience there are, in fact, many reasons to explain the mysterious loss of lives at Shimen Pass, such as low visibility in the fog, the rapidity of the water flow from a high drop, and the confusing jumble of cliffs which soar up to a height of 400 metres.

The most salient feature of the Black Bamboo Gully is its unique geological structure. The entire gully is situated on earth's crustal rifts which extend in four directions, which determine the run of the gully itself. The central section of the gully – Shimen Pass – came about as a result of the major rift which runs from east to west. The rift is also a key factor

behind the formation of the Three-Arrow Spring, the series of sink holes, vertical wells and hidden rivers.

©

Translated by Ling Yuan
Photos & Article by Li Tianshe

1. Venturing deep into the virgin forest
2. Ma'anshan Mountain, the highest in the gully, is tinted red by the morning sun.
3. The Black Bamboo Gully rocks are like a museum of pre-historic animals. Here, a lonely dragon crans its head towards the heavens.



TWIN ROUTES FOR AN EXPLORATION OF BLACK BAMBOO GULLY

Allow one day for the 270-kilometre bus journey from Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province, to Sihe Town at the mouth of the gully. Those who want to explore the gully should first contact the county-government travel service. Boarding and food are available in local guest-houses but don't forget tents and bedding and enough food for the tour. A professional guide is indispensable.

Route One: Take the bus at Sihe Town until you reach a spot 30 kilometres west of the town. From this spot it takes an entire day's trek to get to Camping Ground One (3,310 metres above sea level), a cluster of makeshift shelters. Do not drift off the course the guide has charted for you, your life is in jeopardy. The next day, you can embark on a footpath along the ridge of a steep mountain, which takes you through a forest of large azalea trees, over the stupendous peak of the Ji'ersheluo Mountain and the observation deck at the Fox Mountain leading you to Camping Ground Two at the Fox Terrace (3,600 metres above sea level), which is another group of makeshift shelters. From Camping Ground Two you can climb up the Ma'anshan Mountain, the tallest peak of the Black Bamboo Gully, and get a bird's-eye view of the lofty Yinyangjie (Boundary Between Yin and Yang), Emei, Wawu and Gonggar peaks, the natural pyramid and many others which form the magnificent skyline of western Sichuan.



Route Two: Take the bus at Sihe Town to the end of the timberland highway about 58 kilometres away. You will then embark on a four-kilometre trek which will bring you across a hidden river in the Shentao Forest and through the primitive forest in Wild-Men's Vale and the area covered with sponge-like moss. It takes nearly an entire day to cover the length of this seemingly short route and arrive at Camping Ground Two.

The Black Bamboo Gully defies travellers in spring when the footpaths are obliterated by melting snow, and in summer when the torrential rain and floods can grow to life-threatening proportions. The gully's best tourist seasons are during the rest of the year.

Translated by Ling Yuan



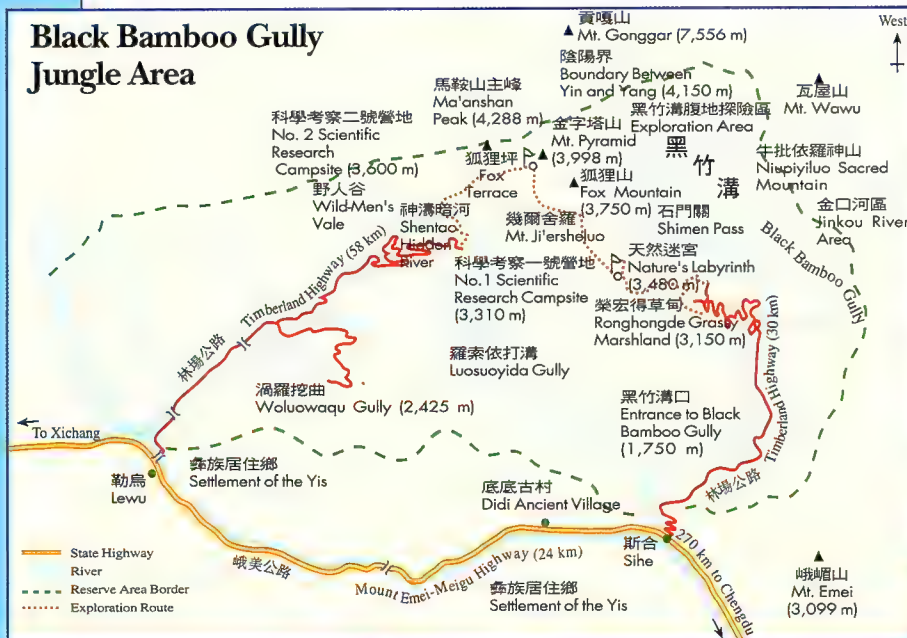
1. Members of a Black Bamboo Gully exploration team taking pictures at Fox Terrace

2. Wonder of nature: Steep cliffs in the Black Bamboo Gully

3. Traditional Chinese medicinal herbs are sold at roadside booths.



Black Bamboo Gully Jungle Area



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C. N. W. A Holiday Ltd. Licence No: 351505

Offer: 1. Hong Kong - Xian - Hong Kong

Single Journey: \$ 1920 Return Journey: \$ 3650

All <<China Tourism>> Subscribers can enjoy 10% discount

A group of ten or more can enjoy 30 % discount.

2. Ticket from Hongkong to various cities in China.

All <<China Tourism>> Subscribers can enjoy 5% discount

(except chartered flight)

Reservation Hotline: 28277223 Address: 1B 17/F,

Kingswell Commercial Tower, 171-173 Lockhart Road, Wanchai,

Hong Kong.

Falcon Express Limited Licence No: 351639

Offer: 1. Hong Kong - Chengdu - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 2,140 Special rates: \$ 1,926

2. Hong Kong - Beijing - Hong Kong

3. Hong Kong - Tianjin - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 2,250 Special rates: \$ 2,138

4. Hong Kong - Dalian - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 2,390 Special rates: \$ 2,271

5. Hong Kong - Shanghai - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 1,590 Special rates: \$ 1,511

6. Hong Kong - Hangzhou - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 1,430 Special rates: \$ 1,359

7. Hong Kong - Ningbo - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 1,500 Special rates: \$ 1,425

8. Hong Kong - Guangzhou - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 480 Special rates: \$ 456

9. Hong Kong - Kunming - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 1,510 Special rates: \$ 1,435

10. Hong Kong - Xiamen - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 1,170 Special rates: \$ 1,112

11. Hong Kong - Shantou - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 990 Special rates: \$ 941

12. Hong Kong - Guiyang - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 1,300 Special Rates: \$ 1,235

13. Hong Kong - Guilin - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 1,210 Special rates: \$ 1,150

14. Hong Kong - Changsha - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 1,370 Special rates: \$ 1,302

15. Hong Kong - Haikou - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 1,150 Special: \$ 1,093

<<China Tourism>> Subscribers can enjoy special discount on reservation of air ticket to overseas countries, hotels and various tours.

Reservation Hotline: 25812338 Address: Rm. 507-508, 5/F

International Building, 141 Des Voeux Road, Central, H.K.

Nan Lung Travel & Express (HK) Ltd. Licence No: 351356

Offer 1. Hong Kong - Guangzhou - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 480 Special rates: \$ 456

2. Hong Kong - Shantou - Hong Kong

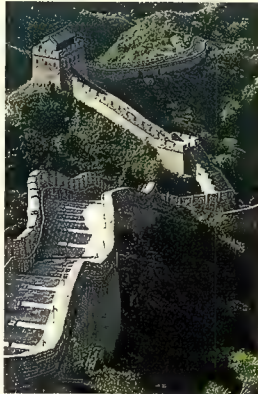
Air Fare: \$ 990 Special rates: \$ 941

3. Hong Kong - Xiamen - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 1,170 Special rates: \$ 1,112

4. Hong Kong - Xi'an - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 1,920 Special rates: \$ 1824



5. Hong Kong - Kunming - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 1,510 Special rates: 1,435

6. Hong Kong - Beijing - Hong Kong

7. Hong Kong - Tianjin - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 2,250 Special rates: \$ 2,138

8. Hong Kong - Chengdu - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 2,140 Special rates: \$ 2,033

9. Hong Kong - Guiyang - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 1,300 Special rates: \$ 1,235

10. Hong Kong - Haikou - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 1,150 Special rates: \$ 1,093

11. Hong Kong - Guilin - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 1,210 Special rates: \$ 1,150

12. Hong Kong - Luoyang - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 1,860 Special rates: \$ 1,767

13. Hong Kong - Nanjing - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 1,650 Special rates: \$ 1,568

14. Hong Kong - Hangzhou - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 1,430 Special rates: \$ 1,359

15. Hong Kong - Shanghai - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 1,590 Special rates: \$ 1,510

16. Hong Kong - Ningbo - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 1,500 Special rates: \$ 1,425

17. Hong Kong - Dalian - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 2,390 Special rates: \$ 2,271

18. Hong Kong - Fuzhou - Hong Kong

Air Fare: \$ 1,430 Special rates: \$ 1,359

Reservation Hotline: 28683160

Address: Room 802-3, Canton House, 54-56 Queen's Road, Central, Hongkong.

Please note that all air fare is for economic class, single journey subject to change without prior notice. Thank you for the support of the above travel agencies.

THE TRAVEL ADVISERS LTD.

Licence No.: 350289

Room 906, Southseas Centre, Tower II, 75 Mody Road, Tsimshatsui East, Kowloon.

Tel: 2312 7138 Fax: 2312 7231

List Price

1. Amtrak USA Rail 1996 Pass	15 Days	30 Days	Less
National Pass covers all of America	US\$355	US\$440	HK\$100
Eastern America	US\$205	US\$265	HK\$100
Western America	US\$265	US\$330	HK\$100
Farwest America	US\$205	US\$265	HK\$100

2. Greyhound Bus USA 1996 Pass



List Price

Less

04 days Mon to Thur. (non-refundable)	HK\$115	HK\$40
05 days	HK\$135	HK\$40
07 days	HK\$175	HK\$40
15 days	HK\$235	HK\$100
30 days	HK\$315	HK\$100
60 days	HK\$515	HK\$100



All « China Tourism » Subscribers can use their "Privileged Subscriber Card" to buy Amtrak USA Rail 1996 Pass or Greyhound Bus USA 1996 Pass with HK\$40 or HK\$100 less from the list price.

TOUR DISCOUNT

All «CHINA TOURISM» subscribers can use their "Privileged Subscriber Card" to join the following tours at these special rates:



Licence No: 350135
Enquiries: 23118060

	Departure	Tour fee(HK\$)	Special rates
1. Guilin	Daily	2990	2790
Air Tour (3 days)			
2. Beijing	Daily	7290	6690
Air Tour (4 days)			
3. Guilin-Beijing	Daily	9490	8990
Air Tour (6 days)			
4. Xi'an-Beijing	Daily	9490	8990
Air Tour (6 days)			



凱達旅運

Licence No: 350102
Enquiries: 27355663

	Departure	Tour fee(HK\$)	Special rates
1. Nepal Safari Tour	Thursday	7800	7600
(8 days)			
2. India Kashmir Holiday	Sunday	8290	8090
(8 days)			
3. New Zealand South,	Thursday,	10490	10290
North Island Tour	Sunday		
(8 days)			
4. New Zealand South,	Thursday,	15790	15590
North Island Tour	Sunday		
(15 days)			
5. New Zealand South,	Thursday,	10990	10790
North Island Fox	Sunday		
Glacier Tour (8 days)			

Order Form

Name: _____ Subscriber No: _____

Kor Support Health products are still available on sale. For details of the products, please refer to «China Tourism» #183 or #184 issues.

Kor Support	Market price	Special Price	Quantity	Amount(HK\$)
<input type="checkbox"/> Kor Support	HK\$90	<input type="checkbox"/> Subscriber's Price HK\$60 <input type="checkbox"/> Reader's Price HK\$70		
<input type="checkbox"/> Kor Support Traveller	HK\$60	<input type="checkbox"/> Subscriber's Price HK\$40 <input type="checkbox"/> Reader's Price HK\$50		
<input type="checkbox"/> Kor Pillow	HK\$98	<input type="checkbox"/> Subscriber's Price HK\$70 <input type="checkbox"/> Reader's Price HK\$80		
<input type="checkbox"/> Free Delivery Service to commercial area of HK, KLN & N.T. (if you order 2 or more) <input type="checkbox"/> Delivery to commercial area of HK, KLN & N.T. \$ 35/ time				
Total:				

Delivery Address:

Attention to: _____ Contact phone no: _____ (daytime)

Payment method: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER ☐ AE Credit Card No: _____

Expiry Date: _____ Signature: _____

☐ Cheque enclosed (not suitable for fax orders) (made payable to: **HONG KONG CHINA TOURISM PRESS**)

*Should you have any queries, Please contact our Customer Hotline: 25618001

The completed order form should be returned to: 24/F Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong

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Yes!

Please enter my subscription for the term indicated below. I understand that I can cancel anytime, and shall receive a FULL REFUND on all undelivered issues.

☐ I would like to subscribe to <China Tourism> for one year, Please send me the HK\$100 cash coupon for the Adventure Shop.

☐ I would like to subscribe to <China Tourism> for two years, Please send me the HK\$100 cash coupon for the Adventure Shop and a free copy of ☐ <Focus on Fujian> or ☐ <Focus on Zhejiang>.

From month |_|/1995

☐ Cheque enclosed (made payable to: **HONG KONG CHINA TOURISM PRESS**)

☐ Please debit my credit card ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER CARD ☐ AE

Card no. & Exp. date: _____ Signature: _____

Surname: (Mr./Mrs.) _____ Given Name: _____

Address: _____

Country: _____ Tel: _____

Subscriber No: _____ Date: _____

Return to: HONG KONG CHINA TOURISM PRESS (CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT), 24/F WESTLANDS CENTRE, 20 WESTLANDS ROAD, QUARRY BAY, HONG KONG. TEL: 25618001 FAX: 25618196

Magazine prices

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- ☐ 1 yr (12 issues) HK\$228/US\$29
- ☐ 2 yrs (24 issues) HK\$420/US\$54

English edition

- ☐ 1 yr (12 issues) HK\$296/US\$38
- ☐ 2 yrs (24 issues) HK\$540/US\$69

Postage (Per one-year subscription)

- ☐ Pick up from HK China Tourism Press free
- ☐ Hong Kong Surface Mail HK\$78/US\$10
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- ☐ Overseas Surface Registered Mail HK\$366/US\$48
- ☐ Overseas (Asean) Airmail HK\$330/US\$43
- ☐ Overseas (Non-Asean) Airmail HK\$425/US\$55

EVENTS

Agro Exchange

Agro Expo China '96 will be held in Beijing from April 16 to 20. The exhibition will be a trade-promotion event with the aim of introducing hybrid species of animals, plants and equipment, as well as strengthening technical exchanges and economic co-operation with foreign countries. Sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Agro Expo China is a comprehensive and large-scale international exposition which is to be held on a regular basis.

BANKING & FINANCE

New Credit Card

As part of a campaign to promote the use of credit cards China's leading commercial bank, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) and the Hualian Commercial Mansion United Co Ltd launched a co-branded credit card, called Peony, designed to encourage its use in 30 large chain stores owned by the company.

Part of the so called Golden Card project, it is designed to reduce the amount of cash in circulation by promoting the use of electronic credit cards instead. Hualian is one of the country's largest commercial firms, with an annual sales income of more than US\$ 1.2 billion. Thus, the co-branded card will support the development of the chain-store business in China.

In mid-October the Harbin Oil Co jointly issued China's first co-branded card, designed mainly for the oil industry in Harbin, capital of Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province.

Both cards are under the aegis of Visa International. Users of such cards enjoy the same conveniences as with other credit cards, but have access to particular services and discount rates provided by the participating banks and enterprises. There are now over 1,500 automatic teller machines and nearly

15,000 point of service machines with more than 47,000 commercial units nationwide now accepting the ICBC's Peony credit cards.

Region to Link ATMs

A centralized banking system started in early October means that cards issued by different banks can be used in any of the networks' automatic teller machines (ATMs). After Shanghai, Guangdong is the country's second region to put the system into operation. Initial connections have linked 780 ATMs in more than 15 cities in the province. They can accept major credit cards as well as the Great Wall, Peony, Jinsui, Dragon and Guangfa cards issued by five different banks. Card holders are also able to withdraw money and check balances using any of the networks' machines whilst work is underway to link the province's 1,600-plus ATMs to the ATM network in Hong Kong and Macau.

The new system will also cover point of sale machines in regional hotels, restaurants and shopping centres by year-end. The network will eventually enable card holders to pay gas, telephone, electricity and water bills at any bank.

Joint Venture Bank

The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) and Korea First Bank, a major South Korean commercial bank, will set up a joint venture bank in Qingdao, Shandong Province. The 50-50 joint venture, Qingdao International Bank, is the fourth joint venture financial institution established by ICBC and overseas banks.

Foreign Funding for Benxi

Benxi City in northeast China's Liaoning Province will use more foreign funding to bring foreign investment to US\$2 billion by the end of the century. At the end of 1994 the city had approved 170 partially foreign-funded enterprises with a total investment of US\$415.34 million, of which US\$123.40 million came from overseas investors.

The new policy is intended to encourage not only State-owned enterprises to use overseas capital, but private businesses also. Preferential treatment will be given in local fees, taxation and land use. The city is pro-

moting overseas investment in existing enterprises, joint ventures and co-production projects with Chinese factories and workshops.

Overseas investors are asked to adopt the build-operate-transfer (BOT) method in key projects concerning communications, energy sources and residential renovation. Over the coming five years seven export production bases will be established to promote foreign trade. To diversify export channels the city will concentrate on tapping markets in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, South Korea, Indonesia, Liberia, Kuwait and Iran.

Thai Farmers Bank

With an office already in Shenzhen, the second largest bank in Thailand, the Thai Farmers Bank Public Company Ltd, opened representative offices in Beijing and Shanghai in mid-September, and in Kunming, Yunnan Province at the beginning of October. The bank has, in under one year, extended US\$141 million in loans and investments to China.

TRANSPORTATION

Inland Port for Cargo

An international cargo container express train service has been introduced between Xi'an in northwest China's Shaanxi Province, and the North China port city of Tianjin, making Xi'an an international cargo port. The No. 794/793 express is now a regular service between the Xi'an East Railway Station and the Tianjin New Port. The service runs every Thursday and Friday taking 48 hours each way.

Railway Open to Cargo

The railway linking Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province, with Meizhou and Shantou opened to cargo transportation in late September. The 480-kilometre railway project began in May 1991 and was completed last July, 10 months ahead of schedule. The railway will serve as an artery for the flourishing eastern Guangdong, linking the railroad network in the west of the province it is also affiliated with the Beijing-Guangzhou and Beijing-Kowloon Railway.

Major Hotels in Beijing and Sichuan

China World Hotel

中國大飯店

1 Jianguomenwai Avenue, Beijing, China 100004

Tel: 5052266 Fax: 5053167

GM: Hans R. Hauri

745 rooms and suites

Located 27 km from airport, 3 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, bowling, swimming pool, baby sitting, steam bath, squash, facilities for the handicapped

City Hotel Co. Ltd.

城市賓館



4 Worker's Stadium Road East, Chaoyang, Beijing, China 100023

Tel: 5007799 Fax: 5007668 5008228

Tel: 210530 NWTBJ CN

GM: Tan Dongfang

Opened January 1990

220 rooms and suites

Located 21 km from airport, 6 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, exhibition hall, karaoke, business centre, beauty salon, sauna, gym, massage, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

CVIK Hotel

賽特飯店



22 Jianguomenwai Avenue, Beijing, China 100004

Tel: 5123388 Fax: 5123542

Telex: 210689 CTHBC CN

GM: Larry Chen

Opened 8 October 1991

341 rooms and suites

Located 25 km from airport, 1.5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, bowling, swimming pool, tennis courts, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

Continental Grand Hotel

五洲大酒店

8 Chendong Road North, Sihuan Road North,

Andingmenwai, Beijing, China 100101

Tel: 4915588 Fax: 4910106

Telex: 210564 ICH CN

GM: Liu Jianping

Opened December 1989

1259 rooms and suites

Located 20 km from airport, 9 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, massage, steam bath

Gloria Plaza Hotel

凱萊大酒店

2 Jianguomen Avenue South, Beijing, China 100022

Tel: 5158855 Fax: 5158533

GM: Peter Crowhurst

Opened 1 March 1992

423 rooms and suites

Located 28 km from airport, 2 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, karaoke, business centre, florist, beauty salon, sauna, gym, massage, swimming pool, baby sitting, steam bath

Grace Hotel

新萬壽賓館

8 Jiangtai Road West, Chaoyang, Beijing, China 100016

Tel: 4362288 Fax: 4361818

Telex: 210599 BJGH CN

GM: Yang Jinshan

Opened August 1990

479 rooms and suites

Located 17 km from airport, 12 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, billiards, gym, massage, baby sitting, facilities for the handicapped

Grand Hotel

貴賓樓飯店

35 Chang'an Avenue East, Beijing, China 100006

Tel: 5137788 Fax: 5130048

GM: Wang Quansheng

217 rooms and suites

Located 30 km from airport, 2 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, beauty salon, sauna, gym, massage, swimming pool, baby sitting

Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza

國際華苑假日飯店

48 Wangfujing Avenue, Beijing, China 100006

Tel: 5133388 Fax: 5132513

Telex: 210676 HICPB CN

GM: Michael Bastiaanse

Opened August 1991



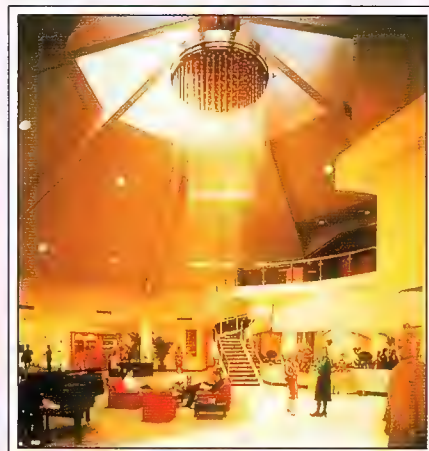
382 rooms and suites

Located 24 km from airport, 3 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, banquet hall, shopping arcade, business centre, beauty salon, sauna, gym, massage, swimming pool, baby sitting, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

Holiday Inn Lido

磁都假日飯店



Jichang Road, Jiangtai Road, Beijing, China 100004

Tel: 4376688 Fax: 4376237

Telex: 22618 LIDOH CN

GM: Peter Pollmeier

Opened February 1984

1,000 rooms and suites

Located 17 km from airport, 12 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, bowling, swimming pool, baby sitting, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

Hong Kong Macau Centre Swissôtel

港澳中心瑞士酒店

Sishitiao East, Lijiaoqiao, Beijing, China 100027

Tel: 5012288 Fax: 5012501

Telex: 222527 HMC CN

GM: Heinrich Grafe

Opened 30 March 1991

424 rooms and suites



Located 30 mins from airport

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, gym, massage, tennis court, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

Hotel New Otani Changfugong

長富宮飯店

26 Jianguomenwai Avenue, Beijing, China 100022

Tel: 5125555 Fax: 5139810

GM: Mizuno Tamio

500 rooms and suites

Located 20 km from airport, 1.5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, shopping arcade, business centre, beauty salon, sauna, gym, massage, swimming pool, tennis courts

Jing Guang New World Hotel

京廣新世界飯店



Hujialou, Chaoyang, Beijing, China 100020

Tel: 5018888 Fax: 5013333

Telex: 210489 BJJGC CN

GM: Raymond Chan

Opened 18 June 1990

446 rooms and suites

Located 22 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, swimming pool, baby sitting, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

Kunlun Hotel

崑崙飯店

2 Xinyuan Road South, Chaoyang, Beijing, China 100004

Tel: 5003388 Fax: 5003228

GM: Lu Haiyan

752 rooms and suites

Located 17 km from airport, 8 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, dance hall, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, swimming pool, tennis courts, baby sitting, facilities for the handicapped

Mandarin Hotel

新大都飯店



21 Chegongzhuang Avenue, Beijing, China 100044

Tel: 8319988 Fax: 8311818

GM: Shi Luming

354 rooms and suites

Located 30 km from airport, 13 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, gym, massage, bowling, swimming pool, steam bath

Peace Hotel

和平賓館



3 Jinyu Lane, Wangfujing, Beijing, China 100004

Tel: 5128833 Fax: 5126863

Telex: 222855 PHB CN

GM: Zhao Linke

Opened November 1988

420 rooms and suites

Located 27 km from airport, 1 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, swimming pool

Shangri-La Hotel

香格里拉飯店

29 Zizhuyuan Road, Haidian, Beijing, China 100081

Tel: 8412211 Fax: 8418006

GM: T. Markland Blacklock

624 rooms and suites

Located 35 km from airport, 15 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, swimming pool, tennis courts, baby sitting, facilities for the handicapped

Taiwan Hotel

台灣飯店



5 Jinyu Lane, Wangfujing Avenue North, Beijing, China 100006

Tel: 5136688 Fax: 5136896

Telex: 210543 TWHTL CN

GM: Song Yunfei

Opened 24 May 1990

284 rooms and suites

Located 30 km from airport, 2 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, massage, baby sitting, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

The Great Wall Sheraton Hotel

長城飯店

A6 Donghuan Road North, Beijing, China 100026

Tel: 5005566 Fax: 5001919

GM: Leon Larkin

777 rooms and suites

Located 20 km from airport, 10 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, gym, massage, swimming pool, tennis courts, baby sitting, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

The Palace Hotel

王府飯店

Jinyu Lane, Wangfujing, Beijing, China 100006

Tel: 5128899 Fax: 5129050

GM: Udo Heine

Located 30 km from airport, 4 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, swimming pool, baby sitting, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

Tianlun Dynasty Hotel

天倫王朝飯店

50 Wangfujing Avenue, Beijing, China 100006

Tel: 5138888 Fax: 5137866

Telex: 210575 TLH CN

GM: Wu Xiaoyan

Opened December 1990

408 rooms and suites

Located 35 km from airport, 1 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, banquet hall, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, bowling, swimming pool, tennis courts, baby sitting, steam bath

Yu Yang Hotel

渝陽飯店

18 Xinyuanxili Street Central, Chaoyang, Beijing, China 100027

Tel: 4669988 Fax: 4666638

Telex: 210724 YYHL CN

GM: Li Yudu

Opened 13 July 1992

440 rooms and suites

Located 20 km from airport, 8 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, florist, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, swimming pool, baby sitting, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

Chengdu, Sichuan

Chengdu Grand Hotel

成都大飯店

29 Section 2, Renmin Road North, Chengdu, Sichuan 610081

Tel: 3333888 Telex: 600349 CHDGH CN

Fax: 336818

GM: Wang Zize

Opened 8 October 1990

456 rooms and 12 suites

Located 20 km from airport, 200 m from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, business centre, karaoke, dance hall, beauty salon, gym, shopping arcade, massage, bar

Chengdu Hotel

成都飯店

East Section of Shudu Road, Chengdu, Sichuan 610066

Tel: 4444112, 4448888

Telex: 60164 CDHOT CN, 600077 CHMKT CN

Fax: 441603

Opened 18 May 1984

310 rooms

Located 15 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference hall, business centre, bar, swimming pool, tennis court, billiard room, gym, sauna, massage, clinic, karaoke, disco, coffee shop, function rooms

Jinhe Grand Hotel

金河大酒店

18 Jinhe Street, Chengdu, Sichuan 610031

Tel: 6642888 Telex: 600341 JHHTL CN

Fax: (028) 632037

GM: Long Guanyin

Opened 15 April 1991

400 rooms and 8 suites

Located 18 km from airport, 7 km from railway station

Facilities: Revolving restaurant, banquet hall, conference rooms, bar, karaoke, disco, dance hall, business centre, billiard room

Jinjiang Hotel

錦江賓館

80 Section 2, Renmin Road South, Chengdu, Sichuan 610014

Tel: 5582222 Telex: 60109 JJH CN

Fax: 5582348

GM: Luo Lixian

Opened May 1960



523 rooms and suites

Located 17 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference halls, banquet hall, bar, shopping arcade, nightclub, KTV, billiards, sauna, massage, swimming pool, tennis court, gym, bowling

Minshan Hotel

岷山飯店

55 Section 2, Renmin Road South, Chengdu, Sichuan 610021

Tel: 5583333 Telex: 60247 MSH CN

Fax: 5582154

GM: Li Li

Opened 18 January 1988

422 rooms and suites

Located 7 km from airport, 2 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese, Western and Japanese restaurants, banquet hall, conference hall, business centre, shopping arcade, nightclub, karaoke, swimming pool, beauty salon, sauna

Tibet Hotel Chengdu

西藏飯店

10 Renmin Road North, Chengdu, Sichuan 610081

Tel: (028) 3333988 Telex: 60309 THC CN

Fax: (028) 3333526

GM: He Shengqiu

Opened 18 February 1988

359 rooms and suites

Located 22 km from airport, 1 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, shopping arcade, karaoke, beauty salon, massage, recreation centre

Zhufeng Hotel Chengdu

卓風酒店

107 Shangxi Shuncheng Street, Chengdu, Sichuan 610015

Tel: 6662441 Telex: 600023 ZHGH CN

Fax: 671717

Opened 15 March 1988

270 rooms

Located in the city centre, 20 km from airport, 4 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese restaurants, banquet hall, business centre, bar, karaoke, disco, billiard room, shopping arcade, beauty salon

Chongqing, Sichuan

Chung King Hotel

中興商務飯店

41 Xinhua Road, Chongqing, Sichuan 630011

Tel: (0811) 349301 Fax: (0811) 343085

GM: Ronnie Chui Jing Wah

200 rooms and suites

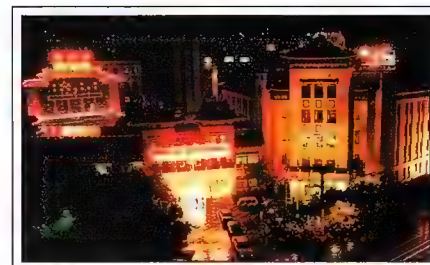
Located in the city centre, 33 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, conference hall, dance hall, disco, karaoke,

shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage

Chongqing Guesthouse

重慶賓館



235 Minsheng Road, Chongqing, Sichuan 630010

Tel: (0811) 345888 Telex: 62122 CQGH CN

Fax: (0811) 330643

GM: Yang Huai

Opened 18 July 1985

265 rooms

Located in downtown Chongqing, 30 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Korean restaurants, business centre, conference rooms, health club, swimming pool, sauna, massage, nightclub, karaoke, dance room, bar, billiard room, mini-golf, beauty salon, shopping arcade

Holiday Inn Yangtze Chongqing

重慶揚子江假日飯店

15 Nanping Beilu, Chongqing, Sichuan 630060

Tel: 203380 Telex: 62220 HIYQC CN

Fax: 200884

GM: Peter Pollmeier

Opened 24 February 1989

379 rooms and suites

Located 5 km from city centre, 30 km from airport, 4 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese restaurant, business centre, disco, karaoke, bar, ballroom (300 persons), outdoor swimming pool, health club, sauna, massage, billiard room, shopping arcade, beauty salon, gym

Renmin Hotel

重慶人民賓館

173 Renmin Road, Chongqing, Sichuan 630015

Tel: (0811) 351421 Fax: (0811) 352076

GM: Luo Guangqing

213 rooms and suites

Located 28 km from airport, 3 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, conference hall, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, massage, baby sitting service, steam bath, solarium, facilities for handicapped persons

Shaping Grand Hotel

重慶沙坪壩大酒店

84 Xiaolongkan New Street, Shapingba District, Chongqing, Sichuan 630030

Tel: (0811) 963195 Fax: (0811) 963293

GM: Deng Fajing

216 rooms and suites

Located 30 km from airport, 1 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, karaoke, conference hall, exhibition hall, dance hall, disco, florist, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, swimming pool, baby sitting service, facilities for handicapped persons

TOURIST INFORMATION

Harbin to Host 1996 Asian Winter Games

Harbin is hoping to host the 1996 Asian Winter Games, the largest winter games with an entry of some 1,200 athletes from 15 countries and regions. From February 4 to 11, 1996 the games will feature 43 events in nine disciplines including speed skating, figure skating, cross-country skiing, free-style skiing and ice hockey.

The budget of about US\$1 million is to cover the construction of 52 projects, including the Yabuli Skiing Arena, an athletes' village and a 195-kilometre highway from Harbin to Yabuli.

The games will be one of six major international sporting events to be held in China before the end of the century.

Ecology Museum to Be Built in Guizhou

China's first ecology museum in an ethnic Miao community will be built in Southwest China's Guizhou Province.

Chinese and Norwegian experts surveyed 10 villages of different ethnic groups in Guizhou last April and jointly worked out the feasibility of building the museum at Suoga Township in Liuzhi. The report states they have found a branch of Miaos, who have head ornaments of long ox horns as their symbol, living in a unique cultural environment and are rarely seen.

Part of a Sino-Norwegian co-operative programme, the project which is planned to take two years to complete. It is expected to protect the natural and cultural environment of the Suoga Miao community and promote development of the local economy.

Hefei Holiday Spot

Due to environmental protection efforts the famous Huangshan Mountain in East China's Anhui Province is proving to be a fine holiday destination. The longest cableway in Asia has gone into operation over the past few years, and the second and third cableways are under construction to

cater for the growing number of tourists. Schools and offices have been relocated at a cost of millions to the local authorities in order to improve the hot springs area. Construction has started on a 35,000-volt power transmission project and a telephone service is now available.

Hubei Cavern

An unusually large cavern has been discovered, containing stalagmites and stalactites in Central China's Hubei Province. Also a home to thousands of bats, the cavern, about 800 metres long, 15 metres high and 40-80 metres wide, is located halfway up Mount Bailong in Duchuan Village near Shiyan City. Connected to the main cavern are seven smaller caverns. The stalactites and stalagmites form wondrous shapes resembling waterfalls, horses, pagodas, fairies, tigers and lotuses. Temperature inside the cavern is about 14 °C. There are plans for the caverns to be turned into a scenic attraction open to tourists in 1996.

Nanjing's New Tourism Zone

The Yangtse River Delta has recently seen the construction of six tourism and holiday zones. Next year marks China's International Holiday and Leisure-Seeking Tourism Year. The new zones have a combined, planned area of 77.1 square kilometres built along the waterside. Situated in Jiangsu Province with approval from the National Tourism Administration of China and the Jiangsu provincial government.

Taijiquan Exercises Centre

With an aim to cultivate the traditional martial arts and spread them internationally the Huizhong Taiji Exercises Centre has been set up in Beijing. The centre will have Feng Zhi, the 18th successor of the Chen Family Taijiquan as the general coach. The main clinic, the "Xinyihunyuan" Taijiquan, is a combination of *xinyi*, *taiji* and *qigong* to exercise for a longer life. The centre is located at No. 1 Zhouzhuang, Chaoyang District, Beijing with three branches respectively in the Temple of Heaven, the Working People's Culture Palace and the Workers' Stadium.

Beijing's New Railway Station

Work on the new Beijing Western Railway Station, in the southwest of the city, is nearing completion.

The new railway station will head the 2,370-kilometre Beijing to Kowloon Railway and is expected to be completed later this year greatly easing the passenger transport bottleneck in Beijing.

The old Beijing Railway Station in southeast Beijing was built in the 1950s and cannot meet the increasing needs of passengers travelling to and from the city. The new station, a combination of advanced modern technology and unique Chinese style, will be the largest and most advanced railway hub in China's railway construction history.

Long Stay Packages

Radisson Hotel, Beijing is offering long stay package deals until March 1, 1996. Located adjacent to the Chinese International Exhibition Centre, the hotel is just 20 minutes from the airport, 12 minutes from the city centre and very close to the commercial and diplomatic district.

Prices include buffet-style breakfast, complimentary local calls, in-house movies as well as a 15% discount on food and beverages, laundry, solarium and massage services and business centre and meeting facilities.

They have standard room packages ranging from US\$125 per night for a minimum of 15 nights to US\$105 for 90 nights (suite packages are also available). Contact Radisson Hotel for more details at 6A East Beisanhuan Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100028, China. Tel: (86 10) 466 3388 Fax: (86 10) 465 3181.

AIRLINE UPDATES

Singapore-Hangzhou New Flight

At the beginning of November Singapore Airlines announced a weekly flight service from Singapore to Hangzhou, capital city of Zhejiang Province. The service was started in order to meet rising demand from tourism agencies and business circles.

Airport Customs

In order to improve the quality of service offered, Shenyang Xiantao Airport, in Liaoning Province, have cut the customs procedure by half. Large groups can report and clear customs collectively while business people and investors will have their own channels.

Some Scenic Spots in Beijing's Suburbs



Autumn is the best season for a tour to the Fragrant Hills when mountain slopes are tinted by crimson maple leaves (by Wang Wenbo).



"The Moon at Daybreak over Marco Polo Bridge" is one of the scenic spots in the Beijing area (by Chan Yat Nin).

XIANGSHAN (FRAGRANT HILLS) PARK

Situated approximately 20 kilometres from the city proper, this park is a beautiful scenic spot composed of natural landscapes, ancient temples and an imperial garden. The most renowned sight is called Red Leaves in the Fragrant Hills. Autumn is actually the best season to visit this place.

LUGOUQIAO (MARCO POLO BRIDGE)

Located 20 kilometres southwest of the urban area, Beijing's oldest surviving stone multiple-arch bridge was first built during the Jin Dynasty (265-420) and was marvelled at by Marco Polo. Constructed with white marble stones, it was one of the ancient "Eight Scenes in the Capital of Yan". This is also the site of the conflation of the War of Resistance Against Japan (1937-1945).

TANZHE MONASTERY

Located in front of Baozhu (Treasure Pearl) Peak on Tanzhe Mountain in Mentougou District, some 45 kilometres from the urban area, Tanzhe Monastery was first built during the Jin Dynasty (265-420).

BEIJING BOTANICAL GARDEN

Covering 60 hectares between Yuquan (Jade Spring) and the Fragrant Hills, this garden has a collection of more than 3,000 species of rare plants. It is the largest botanical garden in northern China.

WOFO TEMPLE AND CAO XUEQIN MEMORIAL HALL

Located on the southern slope of Shou'an Hill north of the Western Hills, this site is some 30 kilometres from the city centre. The ancient temple houses a bronze reclining Buddha 25 tons in weight and 5.2 metres in length. A short distance east of the temple is Cao Xueqin Memorial Hall established within the former residence of Cao Xueqin, author of the famous Chinese classic *A Dream of Red Mansions*.

MUTIANYU GREAT WALL

Located at Mutianyu Village in Huairou County, 70 kilometres from the city proper, this section of the Great Wall was built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). Both sides of the wall are densely dotted with crenels and block towers. Cable cars and other facilities to scale and view the wall are conveniently provided.



Mutianyu Great Wall (by Wang Wenbo)

Lucid springs in the deep valley at Yaoqiaoyu Tourist Area (by Wang Wenbo)



The verdant Longqing Gorge is the site for the annual ice lantern festival in winter (by Liu Wenmin).



The Tanzhe Monastery temple complex was built before Beijing (by Wang Wenbo).



Groups of ancient pagodas can be seen everywhere at Iron-Walled Silver Mountain (by Wang Miao).



Yuntai Terrace at Juyongguan Pass is in itself a masterpiece of stone carving (by Chan Yat Yung).

TIANXIAN (GODDESS) FALLS

Lying in Sihetang Village in Miyun County, 115 kilometres from the city, there are eight waterfalls. Among them the Wangxian (Goddess Viewing), Jingxian (Alarmed Goddess) and Jiexian (Greeting Goddess) Falls together make a three-fold cascade with a drop of over 300 metres. Nearby there are also 12 large and small pools which offer attractive scenery.

YUNFENG (CLOUD PEAK) MOUNTAIN

Located at Bulaotun Village in Miyun County 120 kilometres from the city centre, this spot features beautiful natural mountain landscapes. Some ruins of ancient temples and cliffside carvings still remain.

SIMATAI GREAT WALL

Standing in the mountainous area in northern Miyun County, the Simatai Great Wall is 100 kilometres from the city. This section of the Great Wall built during the Ming Dynasty is the essence of the whole architectural structure. A lake formed by cold and hot springs at the foot of the wall provides a venue for boating.

YAOQIAOYU TOURIST AREA

Located at the easternmost reaches of Miyun County and east of the Simatai Great Wall, this tourist area is hidden within dense forests and clear streams in a deep quiet valley. On its left is the Miyun Hunting and Tourist Area featuring meandering mountain chains and peaks. Near the entrance to the gorge stands the fortress village facing the Great Wall.

MOUNT MIAOFENG SCENIC AREA

With an altitude of 1,290 metres at the northern tip of Mentougou District, this scenic area is about 45 kilometres from the city proper. Interesting tourist attractions here include a 27-hectare rose garden, Qiying Temple and other architectural structures on top of the mountain. The Niangniang Temple Fair held every year from the first to the fifteenth day of the fourth lunar month is a grand event attracting people from all over northern China.

JUYONGGUAN PASS (YUNTAI TERRACE)

Lying in Changping County 60 kilometres from the city proper, Juyongguan Pass,



One can enjoy magnificent views of the Badaling Great Wall from Shanhaiguan Pass to Jiayuguan Pass (by Chan Yat Nin).



Western Han-dynasty Tomb and its museum (by Chan Yat Nin)



The Stone Flower Cave is full of grotesque stalagmites and stalactites (by Wang Wenbo).



The novelist Cao Xueqin's former residence is now the site of his Memorial Hall (by Wang Miao).



The 5.2-metre-long bronze Reclining Buddha in Wofo Temple is impressive (by Wang Miao).



The China Aviation Museum has a collection of aircraft and air defence weapons (by Wang Wenbo).

one of the nine forts on the Great Wall, was first built in 1368. In the pass tower there is an exquisitely carved white marble Yuntai Terrace dating back to 1345.

BADALING GREAT WALL

Standing north of Juyongguan Pass this is the earliest section of the Great Wall to be developed for tourism. Beneath the Great Wall there is a 360-degree grand screen cinema for visitors to enjoy the views of the Great Wall, from the Shanhaiguan Pass at its eastern end in Hebei Province to its western terminus at Jiayuguan Pass in Gansu.

COMPLEX OF ANCIENT PAGODAS

Located seven kilometres northeast of the Ming Tombs is a mountain with very steep cliffs known as Iron-walled Silver Mountain because of its iron colour and its silvery snow-clad peak in winter. The main attraction in the mountain is the complex of pagodas scattered over the slopes dating from the Kin (1115-1234) and Yuan (1271-1368) periods.

CHINA AVIATION MUSEUM

China's first large museum dedicated to aviation is built beneath the Greater Tangshan Mountain in Changping County.

The museum boasts a collection of 160 aircraft of 90 various types and more than 600 aviation and air defence weapons, many of which are rarities in the world of aviation.

SITE OF PEKING MAN AT ZHOUKOU DIAN

Located in Longgu (Dragon Bone) Hill in Fangshan District about 50 kilometres southwest of the urban area, this site features limestone caves in which Peking Man once lived 500,000 years ago. Displayed here in the museum are human and animal fossils as well as other specimens and models.

YUNSHUI (CLOUD WATER) CAVE

Located south of Fangshan District and some 60 kilometres from the city centre, Yunshui Cave is an intricate cave in the western side of Mount Shangfang. Some 600 metres in depth, it is covered with stalactites taking on a myriad of forms.

SHIHUA (STONE FLOWER) CAVE

This cave lives in Fangshan District about 55 kilometres from the city. In the cave one finds grotesque stone formations resembling flowers and curtains as well as stalagmites and stalactites.

Average Climatic Conditions in Beijing, Sichuan, Yunnan, Shanxi and Hebei

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
Beijing		Temperature (°C)	-4.6	-2.2	4.5	13.1	19.8	24.0	25.8	24.4	19.4	12.4	4.1	-2.7
		Rainfall (mm)	3.0	7.4	8.6	19.4	33.1	77.8	192.5	212.3	57.0	24.0	6.6	2.6
Sichuan	Chengdu	Temperature (°C)	5.6	7.6	12.1	17.0	21.1	23.7	25.8	25.1	21.4	16.7	12.0	7.3
		Rainfall (mm)	5.0	11.4	21.0	51.1	88.3	119.4	228.9	265.8	113.5	47.9	16.5	6.4
	Chongqing	Temperature (°C)	8.0	9.9	14.0	18.7	22.6	25.0	28.6	28.9	24.7	19.2	14.2	10.5
		Rainfall (mm)	19.0	21.0	43.0	73.0	155.0	165.0	151.0	141.0	132.0	99.0	51.0	25.0
Yunnan	Kunming	Temperature (°C)	7.7	9.6	13.0	16.5	19.1	19.5	19.8	19.1	17.5	14.9	11.3	8.2
		Rainfall (mm)	11.6	11.2	15.2	21.1	93.0	183.7	212.3	202.2	119.5	85.0	38.6	13.0
Shanxi	Taiyuan	Temperature (°C)	-6.6	-3.1	3.7	11.4	17.7	21.7	23.5	21.8	16.1	9.9	2.1	-4.9
		Rainfall (mm)	3.0	6.0	16.3	23.8	30.1	52.6	118.3	103.6	64.3	30.8	13.2	3.4
	Datong	Temperature (°C)	-11.3	-7.7	-0.1	8.3	15.4	19.9	21.8	20.1	14.3	7.5	-1.4	-8.9
		Rainfall (mm)	3.0	3.9	9.9	19.3	29.1	45.1	95.1	94.1	51.2	23.7	8.1	1.5
Hebei	Shijiazhuang	Temperature (°C)	-2.9	-0.4	6.6	14.6	20.9	25.6	26.6	25.0	20.3	13.7	5.7	-0.9
		Rainfall (mm)	3.2	7.8	11.4	25.7	33.1	49.3	139.0	168.5	58.9	31.7	17.0	4.5

Train Schedules Beijing — Jinan — Nanjing — Shanghai

119 F.T.	123 F.T.	161 F.T.	21 Exp.	13 Exp.	Train Station	No.	14 Exp.	22 Exp.	162 F.T.	124 F.T.	120 F.T.
17:14	09:00 (From Tianjin)	20:58	21:55	14:40	Beijing		09:03 (Next day)	12:56 (Next day)	16:20	07:22 (To Tianjin)	11:44
19:31	09:28	23:16	23:41	16:27	Tianjin West		07:25	11:18	14:10	06:59	09:52
22:54	13:12	02:56	—	—	Dezhou		—	—	10:49	03:47	06:20
01:04	15:21	05:05	03:44	20:29	Jinan South		03:30	07:23	08:42	01:30	04:21
02:09	16:28	06:12	—	—	Tai'an		—	—	07:32	00:17	03:12
03:23	17:43	07:27	—	—	Yanzhou		—	—	06:14	22:59	01:56
06:04	20:34	10:14	—	—	Xuzhou		—	—	03:41	20:46	23:25
08:48	23:18	12:51	09:40	02:28	Bengbu		21:22	01:15	00:35	18:08	20:40
12:27	02:34	15:53	—	—	Nanjing		—	—	21:49	15:15	17:45
13:25	03:32	16:50	—	—	Zhenjiang		—	—	20:39	14:00	16:36
15:11	05:26	18:42	—	—	Wuxi		—	—	18:54	12:20	14:55
15:50	06:18	19:22	—	—	Suzhou		—	—	18:15	11:40	14:16
17:05	—	—	—	—	Shanghai West		—	—	—	—	13:01
20:20 (To Hangzhou)	07:31	20:39	15:27 (Next day)	08:12 (Next day)	Shanghai		15:46	19:49	16:49	10:25	09:25 (From Hangzhou)

Train Schedules Beijing — Shijiazhuang — Handan — Taiyuan — Yuncheng

389 F.T.	373 F.T.	307 F.T.	Train Station	No.	308 F.T.	374 F.T.	390 F.T.
10:17	15:32	—	Beijing		—	08:37	18:37
—	—	23:40	Beijing South		15:03	—	—
—	16:36	00:45	Zhuozhou		13:41	07:22	17:16
12:39	17:53	01:54	Baoding		12:23	06:03	15:46
13:25	18:43	02:40	Dingzhou		11:30	05:10	14:48
—	—	03:47	Shijiazhuang		10:34	—	—
14:36	19:54	—	Shijiazhuang North		—	04:12	13:50
—	—	05:20	Xingtai		08:41	—	—
—	—	06:06	Handan		07:47	—	—
—	—	—	Fengfeng		06:20	—	—
17:22	22:29	—	Yangquan		—	01:36	10:05
20:11	01:34	—	Taiyuan		—	22:48	07:48
—	04:12	—	Jiexiu		—	20:09	—
—	07:02	—	Linfen		—	—	—
—	09:40	—	Yuncheng		—	14:30	—

Train Schedules Beijing — Fengrun — Shenyang

237 F.T.	Train Station	No.	238 F.T.
00:40	Beijing		22:55
01:28	Dachang		21:56
03:07	Fengrun		20:04
05:17	Qinhuangdao		17:28
08:16	Jinzhou		14:06
09:12	Goubanzi		12:50
11:15	Haicheng		10:29
11:48	Anshan		09:46
12:15	Liaoyang		09:15
13:12	Shenyang		07:50

Exp. — Express train

F.T. — Fast through passenger

Train Schedules
Beijing — Tianjin — Shanhaiguan — Shenyang

289 F.T.	281 F.T.	165 F.T.	139 F.T.	137 F.T.	Train Station No.	138 F.T.	140 F.T.	166 F.T.	282 F.T.1	290 F.T.
20:08		00:18		08:14	Beijing	04:12		21:46		04:50
	15:46		01:13		Beijing South		15:13		13:30	
22:50	18:20	02:28	03:18	10:29	Tianjin	02:30	13:21	19:43	11:06	03:01
00:48	20:43	04:09	04:59	12:20	Tangshan South	00:30	11:31	16:29	08:36	01:10
03:35	23:27	06:48	07:57	14:51	Shanhaiguan	21:58	08:57	15:23	05:39	22:38
06:20	02:11	09:26	10:41	17:29	Jinzhou	19:04	06:16	12:31	02:56	19:44
	03:02	10:18	11:32	18:20	Goubangzi	18:01	05:16	11:18	01:57	
	05:50	13:00	14:13	21:07	Shenyang Noth	15:38	03:00	08:53	23:40	
	To Changchun	To Mudanjiang	To Jiamusi	To Qiqihar		From Qiqihar	From Jiamusi	From Mudanjiang	From Changchun	

Train Schedules
Shanghai — Chengdu

190/191 F.T.	Train Station No.	189/192 F.T.
13:50	Shanghai	10:46
15:00	Suzhou	09:34
18:49	Nanjing	05:37
21:54	Bengbu	02:51
00:32	Xuzhou	23:59
02:47	Shangqiu	21:31
04:37	Kaifeng	19:33
05:56	Zhengzhou	18:29
08:38	Luoyang	15:57
10:41	Sanmenxia	13:43
13:18	Mengyuan	11:15
15:22	Xi'an	09:17
15:52	Xianyang	08:41
18:38	Baoji	06:37
07:05	Mianyang	17:30
07:58	Deyang	16:34
09:04	Chengdu	15:23

Train Schedules
Shanghai — Chengdu

182/183 F.T.	Train Station No.	181/184 F.T.
20:41	Shanghai	07:42
21:54	Suzhou	06:32
01:33	Nanjing	02:45
04:10	Bengbu	23:54
06:31	Xuzhou	21:21
08:54	Shangqiu	18:51
10:44	Kaifeng	16:53
12:02	Zhengzhou	15:51
14:15	Luoyang	13:39
16:50	Baofeng	11:03
21:17	Xiangfan	06:41
00:39	Shiyan	02:44
04:15	Ankang	22:57
09:10	Hanzhong	18:32
21:22	Deyang	09:23
22:22	Chengdu	08:03

Train Schedules
Beijing — Jinan — Qingdao — Hefei — Nanjing West — Shanghai — Hangzhou

65 Exp.	63 Exp.	45 Exp.	31 Exp.	25 Exp.	Train Station No.	26 Exp.	32 Exp.	46 Exp.	64 Exp.	66 Exp.
18:30	15:05	10:40	17:14	00:58	Beijing	21:34	11:44	05:45	12:19	13:50
20:35	17:06	12:40	19:31	02:54	Tianjin West	19:51	09:52	04:04	10:34	11:56
23:41	20:11	-	22:36	05:48	Dezhou	16:56	06:20	-	07:28	09:00
01:40	22:10	12:27	00:35	-	Jinan South	-	04:23	23:29	05:31	06:59
06:31	02:57	21:54	05:40	-	Xuzhou	-	23:24	19:09	00:47	02:15
09:16	05:36	00:20	08:22	-	Bengbu	-	20:41	16:50	22:16	23:47
12:12	-	02:56	11:12	-	Nanjing	-	18:03	14:18	-	21:13
12:22	-	-	-	-	Nanjing West	-	-	-	-	20:46
	07:40	-	-	-	Hefei	-	-	-	19:55	
			14:10	-	Wuxi	-	15:10	11:46		
			16:11	-	Shanghai West	-	13:11	10:08		
			-	-	Shanghai	-	-			
			19:16	-	Hangzhou	-	09:45			
				08:15	Jinan East	15:10				
				11:28	Weifang	13:11				
				13:47	Qingdao	08:54				
		To Fuzhou						From Fuzhou		

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Next Issue

Mount Lushan – A Cool World in Hot Summer

Hot Springs at Halun Arxan



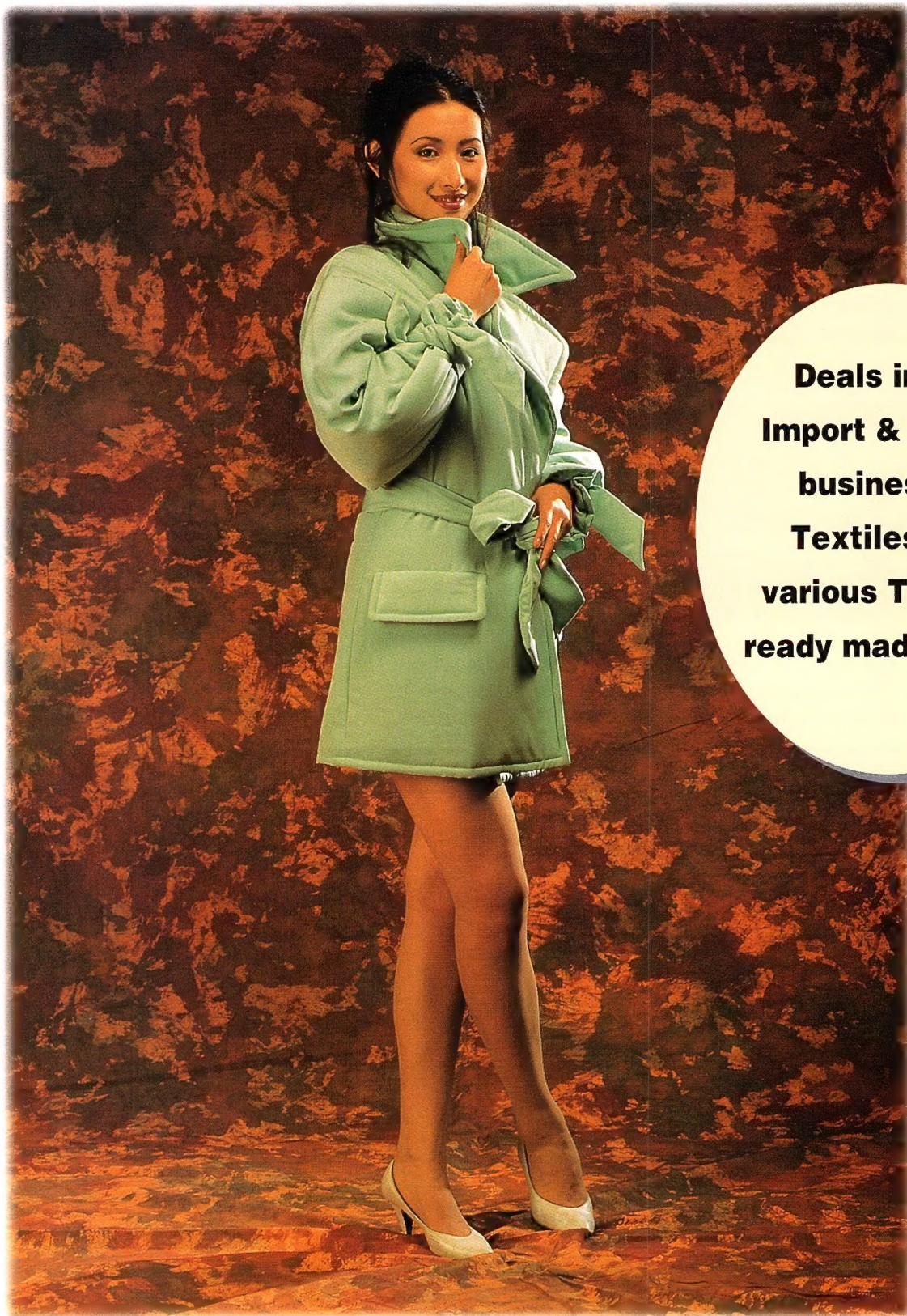
River Lantern Festival, Shanxi



The Keriya People in the Taklimakan Desert

Next month travel with us to the beautiful and varied Mount Lushan in Jiangxi Province. Read how to some people it is a cool retreat from the hot summer, where cool winds brush the face, to others it is a scenic paradise of lush peaks, clear pools and breathtaking waterfalls and yet it still holds a few surprises such as the hill resort established by early foreign settlers where European-style cottages and churches decorate the foliage.

Moving north to Inner Mongolia we introduce you to the 48 therapeutic hot springs of Halun Arxan containing "holy water" with cure-alls from arthritis to cancer. Then, still on the theme of water, we join the River Lantern Festival in Shanxi when the Yellow River bobs with lighted candles for the redemption of lost souls. In sharp contrast we then move to the Taklimakan Desert where the Keriya People live in a green corridor in the "Desert of Death" and our reporter travels by camel to explore the harsh life of a herdsman on this unforgiving land.



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